



STORY STONES

'Come with me and you'll be in a world of pure imagination'...

WILLY WONKA IN "CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY"



Are you under the ocean or soaring through the night sky? Perhaps you're a creature in the desert or meeting friends in the forest? Maybe you're an elf? Many hands are needed to prepare Santa's sleigh. You could be anything, anywhere. The adventure is entirely up to you.

A child's imagination knows no bounds and Story Stones are a wonderful invitation for children to create their own joyous world. They offer something tangible for little hands to hold, while encouraging role-play and a gentle means for fears to be expressed or curiosities explored.



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

GATHER

- 8 – 10 smooth stones, or more if working with a group of children. They can be any size, shape or colour but something with a flat area works best for the fabric to adhere. Also, bare in mind they are for little hands and therefore, larger stones may prove difficult.
- Fabric scraps / samples. If you sew then no doubt you would have a stash of off-cuts. Otherwise, op-shops, friends and family are all great sources. Go for patterns and prints (vintage / retro bed sheets and pillowcases offer fabulous prints), however plain block colours cut into shapes of your choosing, will also work.
- Water-based glue (Mod Podge available at craft stores – call ahead to make sure they stock it)
- Paint brush and/or sponge for Mod Podge application
- Sharp scissors (haberdashery snips are great for cutting designs from fabric, however, please watch little fingers and younger children may need help)
- Newspaper
- Container of water
- Rags or old towel
- Old jar lids (optional)

PREPARE

- Your workspace. This activity has the potential to get messy! Choose an area that can accommodate to this and be liberal with spreading out your sheets of newspaper so you can relax and enjoy the process with your child/ren. If the weather allows, take it outside and don't panic, the fun and simplicity of this activity far outweigh any mess. Plus the joy of imaginary play lasts long after the making has finished.
- Give each child a container of water plus a rag or piece of old towel. This is for rinsing and storing their brush / sponge between uses and dabbing off excess water before continuing.
- Using your collected fabric scraps, chat with your child/ren about what scene they might like to create and which parts of the fabric print they wish to use.
- Cut the shapes, patterns and designs from the fabric and match them with suitably sized stones (i.e. larger shapes like a house or tree on the larger stones and flowers on smaller stones, unless you're creating a whole field). Also consider how you wish your stone to sit; whether it is best lying down or has it a flat edge and can perhaps stand up? Smaller stones behind larger ones can be used as props.
- It's time for the Mod Podge! A little goes a long way so it might be beneficial to dispense a small amount into old jar lids and store the remaining safely out of reach.

ASSEMBLE

- Apply Mod Podge to either the reverse side of your fabric picture or to the stone face. A thin spread is sufficient.
- Position your picture upon the stone and brush a smooth thin layer of Mod Podge over the top. This acts as a sealant and can be applied while the glue layer is still wet. Mod Podge dries clear.
- Once first sealant layer is dried, another coat can be added for extra durability or a glossier finish.

TIP: A ½ metre cut of plain coloured felt or fabric can be used as a play base to enhance the scene. Think blue for the ocean or green for grass.

TIP: Store your collections in a drawstring calico bag. Spare book bags also work well.

» Special thanks to Xan Holyoak for her contribution to this download



Once the final coat of Mod Podge has dried clear, your adventures can begin!

