**Storytelling**

Retelling a story is a powerful way for children to make a story their own. Storytelling helps children concentrate on the best way to tell the story, and to make deliberate choices about the words and phrases they use in the telling. All of this will help greatly when they come to writing.

When a story is familiar it is easier for a reader to get hold of its shape, and to consider how it fits together. Children can use storyboards or storymaps as supports for their retelling. These techniques help them identify the ‘bones’ of the story. Longer stories can be passed around a story circle: children build confidence by telling a small chunk of the story and then passing it on to the next person.