



Author: Callie Robinson, TVI, ECSE

Date: 4/9/2020

Activity: Story Boxes

<https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/storybox-ideas-norma-drissel>

I just love using story boxes. Children are experiential learners anyway so utilizing story boxes with your child who may have both a combined vision and hearing loss gives them the opportunity to enjoy stories being told through experiencing real objects and not just through looking at pictures or hearing the words. It's always important to know how your child uses their senses. Do they use more vision? Do they like to explore through touch? How about hearing? More than likely, they like to use all of their senses, however, you will know your child best and you will know if presenting through touch makes more sense than presenting through their vision. Once you know how to access your child's best learning sense (vision, hearing, touch) then you'll know how to present information. Telling stories through objects is one part of this idea, another is telling stories through real experiences. Let's say you take your child for a walk to get outside for some fresh air, something we're all doing these days. Along the way, you run into a bumpy trail with rocks. Gosh, what an experience. You and your child are having a bumpy ride with rocks. Take a rock as a reminder and put it into a box. Next, let's say you run into someone walking a dog, after seeing and/or touching the animal find something real that could represent the dog such as a dog collar or tag and place that in your box too. Finally, let's say there are a lot of smells along your walk such as flowers or pine from the trees. Take something memorable and use that as part of your story. Finally, you have built a story box about going for a walk. Be mindful, that the sequence of your experiences would be important to how the story is retold. Also, maybe taking pictures of the experience would be helpful if your child uses more vision. Or, maybe your child likes using hand under hand gestures and you can look up the signs for rock, dog, and flower to teach them. There are many naturally embedded concepts that can be discussed or experienced as well, for example, bumpy, furry, soft, sweet, hot, sticky, etc., to name a few. Ultimately, you will have real objects that represent parts of your story and exploring the objects through touch primarily and the other senses would be the main idea. You can build story boxes for any activity you do with your child. Let's think of some: going to the doctors, going to the store, bedtime routines, bath time and getting dressed routine, taking a trip somewhere, celebrating a holiday or birthday, and visiting grandma and

grandpa. I hope that gives you an idea of how personal and fun you can make your own story box.

Callie Robinson M.Ed.  
Early Childhood Deaf-blind Specialist