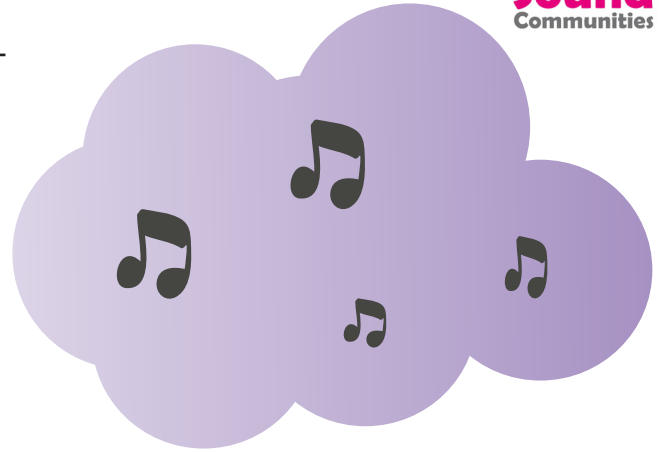


Sound Stone Stories

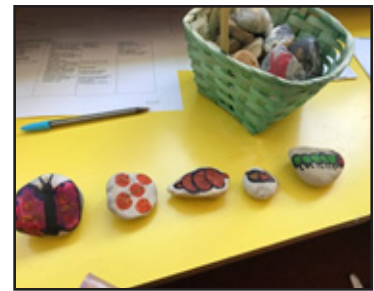
Story stones are a great starting point for creating stories and they can also be used for exploring music within the context of a story. The music helps to engage children and facilitates some great sharing of creative thoughts between adults and children as you explore and make music for all the different story elements.



You can make up your own stories and create your own sound stones – **see some examples from us below!**

Here is an **example of some sound stones.**

These were made using everyday stones, with different pictures painted on them to represent different sound-making or musical elements in the story.



Our **example of a sound stone story...** Every logo in the story below is an opportunity to make music!

It was hot ☀️, very ☀️, so Mum and I decided to go for a 👣 to the beach.

On the way I heard an 🍦 van! "Maybe you can have one on the way home", Mum said. That made me 😞. As we got near to the sea I heard a 🐦 singing! "Listen", Mum said, "what's the 🐦 telling you?"

Later, on the beach, I found a special 🐚 and I put it in my pocket for later, and then I collected some stones together for my sound story.

When I lifted up one stone a large 🦀 ran out and then another! 🦀 They danced around me snipping their claws. We laughed so much. 😄

That evening as we 👣 home, Mum remembered the ice cream and we both had an 🍦.

That night, as I lay in bed I suddenly remembered the 🐚 I put it next to my ear, and fell asleep to the sound of the sea.

Now make up your own sound stone story!

Remember, you can make up a story about anything. Try some of our tips below for creating your own sound stone stories:



You can either start with the story idea and then add in the sound stones afterwards, or you might like to create the sound stones with children first and use these to generate the story.



It's good to have a variety of sound makers, particularly pitched ones such as chime bars for made up song fragments.



You don't always have to make the sounds yourselves – you could use recordings of different sounds (even downloaded from the internet) instead. And don't forget to have fun by using different voice sounds or body percussion!



When you've finished creating your story, go back and encourage children to find any more words that they can make different sounds or music to. Help them by asking questions like "what music do crabs dance to?" or "what music do you like to listen to in bed?".



After you've created your story, it's always worth repeating elements and helping children remember some of the musical motives they have composed. If you repeat a musical motive (i.e. play it more than twice) you move into rhythm work and musical patterns!

Read about an experience we had using sound stone stories with a nursery in Eastbourne below...

"I turned up to a nursery in Eastbourne on a sunny afternoon and Laura the early years practitioner was very excited to share with me her basket of story stones she had made with the children. They were beautiful, with bright colours and blobs of paint representing all kinds of things, bugs, the sun, flowers, anything the children could think of that would fit on the grey shiny surface of the stones. We lay them out on the carpet and spent the afternoon exploring all the different sounds we could make with the stones, banging them on different surfaces, tapping and rubbing them together to sound out the syllables, and then finally composing or making up tiny fragments of music with instruments and our voices to represent the different images. Finally, we put them all together and made up a story that we performed together. We had such fun!"

– Kate Comberti, Creative Producer at Creative Futures.