

T's Amazing Animal Adventure Story!

Materials Needed:

- Large sheet of paper or a small whiteboard
- Child-safe, chunky crayons or markers
- A favorite animal toy or picture book (optional, for inspiration)
- A highlighter or light-colored marker (for creating traceable letters)

Lesson Plan: Let's Make a Story!

Objective: Today, we're going to have so much fun creating our very own animal story! T will be the storyteller, and I will be the special writer. Then, T will draw a beautiful picture for our story and we might even practice making some of the letters from our story!

Step 1: Sparking the Story (5-7 minutes)

Let's get our imaginations ready!

- "Hi T! What's your favorite animal today? (Pause for response). Oh, a [T's chosen animal] is a wonderful choice!"
- If T has a favorite animal toy, you can bring it out. "Look, Mr./Ms. [Animal Toy Name] wants to hear a story too!"
- "Let's think of a special adventure for a [T's chosen animal]. What could our animal do today? Where could it go?" Gently prompt with open-ended questions if needed, like "Does it go to the park? Or maybe the jungle? What does it like to eat?"

Step 2: Story Time! T Tells, Adult Writes (5-10 minutes)

Now, T, you tell me the story, and I'll write down all your wonderful words!

- Have the large paper and a marker ready. Sit beside T so they can see you write.
- Encourage T to start their story. "Once upon a time, there was a..." or "My [animal]..."
- Write down T's exact words as much as possible. Speak the words aloud as you write them. For a 2.5-year-old, the story might be a few sentences long, and that's perfect! Example: "The doggie ran. Doggie happy. Doggie eats."
- Show enthusiasm! "Wow, T, that's a great part of the story! What happens next?"
- Don't worry about perfect grammar for T's dictation; the goal is expression.

Step 3: Picture Power! Illustrating the Adventure (10-15 minutes)

Every great story needs a picture! Let's draw what happened in T's story.

- Read T's story back to them slowly and with expression, pointing to the words. "Let's read YOUR amazing story!"
- Provide T with crayons or markers. "Now, can you draw a picture of your [animal] and what it did in the story, right here on our paper?"
- Encourage T to talk about their drawing. "Tell me about your picture! What color is your [animal]? What is it doing there?"
- Praise their effort and creativity, no matter the outcome. "That's a beautiful picture, T! It shows your story so well!"

Step 4: Letter Play - Tracing Fun! (5-7 minutes)

Let's find some special letters in your story!

- Look at the story you wrote. Pick 1 or 2 simple letters that are meaningful or easy to form (e.g., the first letter of T's name if it appeared, the first letter of the animal, or a common letter like 'A', 'O', 'T').
- Say, "Look, T! This is the letter [Letter Name], and it makes the [Letter Sound] sound. It's in YOUR story!"
- Using a highlighter or light-colored marker, write the chosen letter(s) very large and clear on a part of the paper or a separate sheet.
- "Let's try to trace this letter! Watch me first." Model tracing the letter with your finger, then with a marker.
- Then, guide T's hand gently to trace the letter. "Great job! Let's do it together."
- Offer T a crayon or marker to try tracing over your highlighted letter. "Your turn to make the letter [Letter Name]!"
- Focus on the experience and effort, not perfection. Keep it light and fun. If T is not interested in tracing many times, one or two attempts are fine. The goal is exposure and positive association.

Step 5: Celebrate Our Masterpiece! (2-3 minutes)

We did it! We made a fantastic story!

- Hold up the paper with the story and illustration. "Look at this amazing story and picture T made! And you even practiced making letters!"
- Read the story one more time with excitement.
- Display the story in a special place where T can see it. "Let's put your story up so everyone can see what a great author and artist you are!"
- Offer lots of praise and a high-five!

Remember, T: The most important thing is to have fun with stories and words! You are a super storyteller!