The Story Sacks Promote:

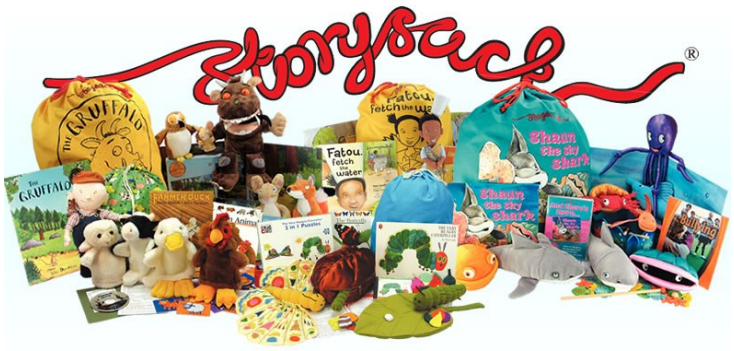
- A love of reading
- Development of expressive language
- Words Up Key Messages

https://highlandliteracy.com/words-up-key-messages/

- Use of expression
- Vocabulary development and extension
- Concepts of print
- Fine motor skills
- Phonological awareness
- Understanding of story—characters, plots, setting
- A thirst for learning
- Family learning together
- A positive reading ethos
- Some basic numeracy skills

'Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or a duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift. '

Kate DiCamillo



I Opened a Book

I opened a book and in I strode
Now nobody can find me.
I've left my chair, my house, my road,
My town and my world behind me.
I'm wearing the cloak, I've slipped on the ring,
I've swallowed the magic potion.
I've fought with a dragon, dined with a king
And dived in a bottomless ocean.
I opened a book and made some friends.
I shared their tears and laughter
And followed their road with its bumps and bends
To the happily ever after.
I finished my book and out I came.
The cloak can no longer hide me.
My chair and my house are just the same,
But I have a book inside me.

Julia Donaldson

Why Story Sacks?

By ages 3-6— a child's narrative skills are a powerful predictor of literacy skills at 8-12 years.

By 5 years—a child's vocabulary will predict their education suc-

'I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book'

'I will defend the importance of bed-time stories to my last gasp.'

J.K Rowling

Story Sack Dos

- Make memorable experiences—cosy up! Create a cosy and inviting environment to share together.
- Encourage a love of reading—where the adult sets the tone
- Enjoy sharing stories together—involve other family members; older/younger siblings, grandparents, everyone can get involved!
- Share the story as often as your child wants
- Use the 'Story Sack Activity Card' to guide you in helpful activities to go along with the story
- However if the story takes a different direction in your house—follow it, enjoy it!

Story Sack Don'ts

- Share stories in a stressful environment
- Force a story—if a sack isn't interesting your child that is okay, we all have preferences!
- See the 'Story Sack Activity Card' as a list that must be completed—they are suggested activities and not required
- The focus of sharing a book is not about your child being able to read but enjoying the book together.

'We have an obligation to read aloud to our children. To read them things they enjoy. To read to them stories we are already tired of. To do the voices, to make it interesting and not to stop reading to them just because they learn to read themselves. '

Neil Gaiman

Please look after each Story Sack and treat it with care.

Ensure you check the contents before returning as we want to keep these as a precious resource for many more