



Communication, Language, and Literacy Activity for 30 to 36 Months

The Story Knife

This activity will help your child appreciate the art of storytelling and to love reading. Telling stories with story knives was the way that grandmothers passed on knowledge of cooking, sewing, and proper behavior.

Materials:

- Plastic knife, wooden spoon, or stick
- Mud or sand

What to do:

1. Outside, take some time to tell your child a traditional story using the story knife. Ask an elder to share a story for an extra special treat!
2. Indoors, fill a small shallow pan with mud or wet sand.
3. Give the child a plastic knife and let her draw picture stories as she talks about what she is drawing.

You can find the story "How Raven Made Milky Way" by Alexander Isaac on the Internet at:

<http://ankn.uaf.edu/NPE/CulturalAtlases/Yupiaq/Marshall/Raven/HowRavenMadeMilkyWay.html>.

