



## Directions for Completing the Story Box Guidelines Form

The purpose of the Story Box Guideline Form is to provide direction and ideas to families so that they understand how to use the Story Box and its contents. The form should be included in the story box. It should be typed and written clearly.

The first time that families use the props in the box they will probably use the props to act out the book as written. After that, your goal is to encourage them to find new ways to tell the story with the props. You will provide ideas or “prompts” for play to families.

**Play Prompts:** These are ideas of how to use characters, settings, and plot lines from the book in play. Your prompts are to help families to create new ideas and scenarios from the original story. For instance, if the chosen book was Goldilocks and the Three Bears, a play prompt might be to have Goldilocks return to visit the bears another day. If parents are not accustomed to playing in this “out of the box” way with their children, they may need support in coming up with ideas. A play prompt might also be a question such as, “How could you use these materials to tell what the three bears did after Goldilocks left their house?”

**Vocabulary:** These are words chosen directly from the story book. They should be words that are likely to be new to the children and are “Tier 2” words. Tier 2 words are interesting words, often descriptive or with multiple uses/meanings. They are not overly common words (like bear or house), or words that are very unusual (like porridge). Rather, they are in the middle (like fragile or wept). The form provides a place for you to write a definition of the word that children will understand. Again, if parents are new to this, it might be difficult for them to think of appropriate definitions on the spot, so they can use your ideas.

**Props:** The Story Box should contain between 5 and 10 objects or “props” for play. Some of the props should be directly related to the story, such as characters. One of the props will be an “*unexpected play prop*” in that it relates to one of your play prompts that is not part of the original story. For instance, there may be a bouquet of flowers that Goldilocks brings to the bears as an apology when she visits the bears another day.