



Storyplay

**Storyplay in Action:
Kimi's Cat**



Here are some suggestions from Sara Stanley for using *Kimi's Cat* to extend children's imagination and thinking. After reading the story, talk and think together with the children about some of these questions.

IMAGINE AND DISCUSS

Which things in the book might Kimi do that her cat also does?

Would Kimi sit on Granny's lap? Why?

BUT ...just imagine...

What if Granny was wearing a prickly apron made from porcupine quills?

What if Granny was sitting in a bath full of sticky jelly?

Would Kimi still sit on Granny's lap? Why?

I wonder if Kimi's cat would still try and sit on Granny's lap if Granny was sitting in the bath tub. What do you think? Why?

Would Kimi chase a bird like her cat did? Why?

BUT...just imagine...

What if the bird was made of chocolate? What would Kimi do?

What if the bird had lots of sharp teeth? Would the cat still want to chase it?

I wonder what would happen if birds were bigger than cats? Would they be gentle or fierce? What would it be like to climb on a bird and fly somewhere? Where would you like to go?

Would Kimi run away from a noisy dog like her cat did? Why?

BUT...just imagine

What if the noisy dog was as small as a mouse?

What if the noisy dog was just a toy dog?

I wonder what we would hear dogs say if they talked in your language instead of making noisy barks? What do you think they'd want to talk about?

PLAY WITH THE STORY

Hide and seek

One person is Kimi and the other is Kimi's cat. Kimi counts to 10 slowly while the person being the cat hides. After the count of ten Kimi must shout "Where are you little cat?" and try to find them. Then Kimi and the cat must swap places and take it in turns to find each other all over again.

Thinking about the game

I wonder where cats choose to hide and why? What do you think?

I wonder, do cats hide different places to the places people hide? Where and why?

Cat, bird, worm

Stand back to back so you cannot see each other. Now you must both count 1,2,3 and then choose which animal to be. To be a cat you must crawl on your hands and knees. To be a bird you must flap your arms to fly. To be a worm you must wriggle on your tummy.

Count to 3 again.

Now you can both look to see what your partner has chosen to be. If you have both chosen the same thing you must shout SNAP!

Thinking about the game

I wonder which of these creatures you might prefer to be and why? What do you think?

I wonder if a cat and a bird could be friends? Or a bird and a worm? Why do you think so?

Could a worm and a cat be friends? What might they have in common?

Memory cat

Cut a piece of paper or cardboard into 8 pieces.

On 2 pieces of paper help your child to write the word 'happy'.



On 2 pieces of paper help your child to write the word 'sad'.

On 2 pieces of paper help your child to write the word 'naughty'.

On 2 pieces of paper help your child to write the word 'sleepy'.

Your child can draw a picture to go with each word on the paper.

Now turn all the pieces of paper or board over and shuffle them around face down.

Take it in turns to pick up 2 cards.

If the 2 cards are the same you can keep them. If they do not match you must put them back in the same place and it is someone else's turn. The person with the most pairs is the winner.

You can also add more cards to the game to make it harder. Ask your child what other words you could add to describe a cat. This helps to develop their vocabulary.

Thinking about the game

I wonder whether cats ever feel the same things as people? What things could they feel?

Do you think kittens might ever get grumpy and cross when grown up cats tell them what to do?

Do you think some cats are cleverer than other cats? Why?

What could make a cat sad? What does a cat need to be happy?

DESIGN YOURSELF AS A MAGIC CAT

Ask your child: What sort of cat would you be? What would you look like? What colours would you be? What size would you be? What special tricks would you do? What would you do all day and what would your name be?

Draw a picture of you as a magic cat, write your name. Now tell your 'magic cat' story to someone. Maybe they can write it down so you can read it again.

MAKE YOUR OWN LITTLE CAT AND TELL IT LOTS OF STORIES

Ideas for making cats

Make playdough cats.

Playdough recipe

2 cups plain flour

1 cup salt

1 tbs oil

1 cup cold water

2 drops liquid food colouring

Method:

STEP 1 Combine plain flour and salt.

STEP 2 Add water, food colouring and oil. Mix until ingredients are combined.

STEP 3 Knead well.

STEP 4 If consistency is too wet add a little plain flour.

Make a pom-pom cat out of wool

You will need:

Cardboard

Two circular items you can trace around.

Wool

Scissors

Method:

Make two donut shaped pieces of cardboard. Using the larger of your two circular items, trace out two circles on your cardboard, about 5cm diameter. Next put a smaller circle, about 2cm in the middle of your larger circles. Now cut out the two larger circles, then cut out the inner circles. You will now have two donut shaped rings, 5cm outside diameter with a 2cm diameter hole.

Place the rings together. The idea now is to wind the wool around the rings. Cut the wool into manageable lengths, perhaps a couple of metres (about 6 feet) at



a time. Hold one end on the outside of the ring and feed the other end through the hole, round the back and through the front again. Repeat this, working your way around the ring until all the cardboard is covered.

Once your rings are fairly full of wool, cut the wool around the edges (i.e. the scissor blade should eventually pass between the two pieces of cardboard as you are cutting.) You won't be able to cut it all in one go so just do a few layers at a time. Pass a length of wool between the two pieces of cardboard, around all the strands of wool, and tie it firmly together. Now you can remove the cardboard rings (cut them if necessary). Trim any lengths of wool which are uneven to give your pom poms a tidy look.

Now add googly eyes or make eyes out of card and stick on. Add a tail, ears and whiskers using felt, paper, fabric or wool.

Make a cat puppet out of an old sock

What you need:

One sock (choose a colour you want your cat to be!)

Needle and thread

1 x black button (nose)

2 x other buttons (eyes)

Scraps of material to make the ears

Broom bristles or pipe cleaners

Scissors

(You can use old pieces of clothing to source the buttons and extra scraps of material.)

Method:

Put the sock on your hand so that your thumb is in the heel and your fingers are in the toe.

Test out making your puppet talk and take note of where its eyes, nose and ears will be.

Using your black scraps of material, cut out two triangular shapes for ears. Put a pleat in the centre of the wide base of each ear before sewing them in place so that the ears are rounded just like a cat's. Sew or glue the ears on. Sew or glue on two buttons for eyes and one for a nose. Pierce a small hole under the nose and thread some broom bristles or pipe cleaners through in a criss-cross to make the whiskers. Sew a couple of stitches through the centre point of the whiskers so that they are bound together and won't slip.

Note: you could also make the cat puppet in a similar way using a paper bag.

