Kids Explore!

Make A Storytelling Bag

Fill it with treasures that remind you of tales you like to tell.

Materials

◆ Scraps of fabric

◆ An old shoelace or pretty ribbon and a safety pin

◆ Scissors

◆ A sewing machine or a needle and thread

◆ Small objects that remind you of stories you like to tell — marbles, plastic animals, rocks, glass jewels, etc.

Adult help may be needed on steps with ❖.

1) Look through your own fabric scraps or go to MECCA* to find material. For a special bag, choose fabric that brings back memories — worn out pajamas from when you were little, material with special animal prints, fabric in your favorite colors, etc.

❖ 2. Cut your fabric into strips and arrange the the pieces in a rectangle about 16” x 10”.

❖ 3. Sew your pieces together either by hand or with a machine.

❖ 4. Fold down the top edge of your rectangle and sew in a seam to create a channel about 1/2” wide. This is where you’ll thread in your shoelace or ribbon for a drawstring.

❖ 5. Fold your rectangle in half (with the nice sides of the fabric facing in) so it is about 8” wide and 10” tall. Sew across the bottom of the bag and then up the side, stopping just before the drawstring openings at the top.

❖ 6. Trim the fabric where the drawstring openings are so it’s even with the final edge of your bag. Turn your bag right side out and thread your drawstring through the channel by attaching a safety pin to the end and moving it slowly through the channel. You have to try this to understand how it works!

7. Every time you collect a new story (something you make up, read in a book, or hear from a friend or family member) put something in your bag to remind you of the story. Next time you want to tell a story, pull something out of your special bag!

** MECCA is the Materials Exchange Center for Community Arts, a great place to find affordable art supplies at 449 Willamette Street in Eugene.*

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