

POCKET SMOCK & OTHER STORYTIME APRONS

Intended Audience

- Ideal for lapsit programs, toddler times and preschool storytimes. I have also brought my smock on school visits for the younger grades.

Pocket Apron

- I bought an inexpensive pre-made apron at a craft store and decorated it with fabric paint.
- I have used this with a library lapsit program all the way up to first graders. It all depends on what you have in your pockets!
- Whenever I bring out my smock and put it on, I sing a little song before we start looking through the pockets. The kids catch on quick and usually join in.

1 little, 2 little, 3 little pockets,

4 little, 5 little, 6 little pockets,

7 little, 8 little, no more pockets...

in my Storytime Smock!

- There are so many different things you can use with this. It can be a lead-in to your theme or just be an activity in between books. The children have always loved it. Some ideas I have used are:

- ★ Poetry: Whenever I come across a little poem, I type it up or cut it out, laminate it and keep it for my apron.

- ★ Old MacDonald: this is my all-time favorite. I'll put little animals, either small toys or laminated pictures, in my pockets and pull them out for each verse of the song.
- ★ Theme Items: If you are a theme person, this is great. For instance, if you are doing a "zoo" storytime, you can have a bunch of animals etc in the pockets. Pulling them out one at a time, the kids will discover what the books for the day will be about.
- ★ Jokes & Riddles: Great to use with preschoolers and older. Knock-knock jokes are always a hit!
- ★ Holiday items: Include pictures or things having to do with an upcoming holiday and the children can guess what it is.
- ★ Colors & Shapes: See how smart they are by pulling out these. Great to do along with a concept book.
- ★ Hats: Cut out or draw some different hats (police, firefighter, chef etc) and see whether the kids recognize who would wear it. Good for a hat themed storytime.
- ★ Book Characters: I have used this many times. The kids love seeing their favorite storybook characters coming out of the pockets. I printed out color pictures from the web and laminated them.

These are just some of the ideas I have come up with. What is great about this is that you can keep adding to it now that the smock is made. I find many ideas and pictures to use in children's magazines.

- I have attached some patterns and poems that I have collected to use with a pocket apron.

Flannel Apron

- I purchased an inexpensive craft apron and some felt that was a similar color. I sewed the felt on and voila! You can use felt pieces with it or Velcro works pretty well. I

usually either make the story pieces out of felt or laminated paper with an adhesive Velcro sticker on the back.

- This also can be used for all ages especially the preschoolers.
- Any flannel story you have created can be used on this apron instead of a flannel board.
- I have attached a pattern to create your own storytelling apron along with some ideas to use with it.

Magnet Apron

- This *seemed* like a great idea??!!! I purchased a black apron and painted on some magnetic paint. Many of the rhymes and stories I had previously made were for a magnet board that I had at the library and thought I would make a wearable one. I'm not sure whether this is a success yet or not... The magnet story pieces stick well enough if I don't move around quickly or bend down at all. I'm hoping I can improve on this one in the future! For now, I'm just adding some more magnets to my stories to make them hold a bit better.
- Many of the flannel apron ideas can be easily turned into magnetic pieces for this.

Some Useful Resources

Bauer, Caroline Feller. *New Handbook for Storytellers: With Stories, Poems, Magic, and More*. Chicago: American Library Association, 1993.

Briggs, Diane. *52 Programs For Preschoolers: The Librarian's Year-Round Planner*. Chicago: American Library Association, 1997.

Davis, Robin Works. *Toddle On Over: Developing Infant and Toddler Literature Programs*. Wisconsin: Alleyside Press, 1998.

Huff, Mary Jo. *Storytelling With Puppets, Props, & Playful Tales*. California: Monday Morning Books, 1998.

From Caroline Feller Bauer's *New Handbook For Storytellers* (p.213)

I think this would be great to use with a pocket apron...
A variation could be: changing the last two lines to "It's a"
and pull out an object to go with a story you are going to tell or read.

POCKETS
Eve Merriam

After you have recited or read Eve Merriam's poem from *Blackberry Ink* several times, you might wish to present it visually. On the last line pull out your pocket and show a hole, or exhibit the pile of objects mentioned in the poem.

Something's in my pocket,
What do you think?
It's nothing that goes down
The kitchen sink.

It isn't a penny,
It isn't a nail,
It isn't a cookie
That's nice and stale.

It isn't a whistle,
It isn't a stamp,
It isn't a toad
That's nice and damp.

It isn't an eraser
Or a ticket stub,
It isn't a piece
Of pocket flub.

It isn't a ring
Or string
Or a stone,
It isn't a bead
Or a weed
Or a bone.

I won't give it to you—
Get a hole of your own.



To Use With a
Pocket Apron

