

Play
School

Story Time

PlayWorld



Ideas for parents and carers

In this episode of Play School Story Time, Courtney Act shares 'The Spectacular Suit' written by Kat Patrick & Hayley Wells.

This story is about a young girl named Frankie who wants to wear something special to her birthday, and uses her imagination to dream up a spectacular suit.

STEM learning

Pattern recognition and design.

This PlayWorld supports:

Mathematical understandings about repeated patterns, colours and shapes. It also helps children learn about the importance of inclusion and feeling a sense of belonging.



STEP 1: View/read and reflect

As you read, help your child notice how Frankie is feeling, and how she is finding a way to voice her ideas and express her emotions.

Also notice the many different colours, shapes and patterns you can see in the illustrations.

STEP 2: Plan your play

Prepare these items:

- A birthday invitation to your child - *Please come to Frankie's surprise birthday party. We need your help to make the party even more spectacular! Could you design and make your own spectacular outfit to surprise Frankie for her birthday? Love Frankie's family.*
- Set up an indoor fashion studio where you and your child can create your designs, using craft supplies.
- Create a birthday party space with decorations and a few fun snacks.
- Choose some soft toys together with your child, to be characters at Frankie's birthday party.



STEP 3: Go on your adventure

- To start the imaginary PlayWorld, hold hands and jump into Frankie's world.
- Notice the different things from the book e.g. her house, party decorations, invitations, food and clothes.

STEP 5: Learn through play

As your child draws a design for their spectacular outfit, talk about different patterns they can create. You could go on a pattern hunt for inspiration. Can you find spirals, spots and stripes? Look at Frankie's spectacular suit for ideas.

Ask your child to talk about what colours and shapes they like and why. How does it feel to be getting ready (anticipation) for the party?

Next, get dressed and go to the party with Frankie and her friends.

When the party is over, stand up and jump out of the PlayWorld.



STEP 4: Encounter a problem

Give your child the party invitation. How will you design a new outfit? Let's go to a Fashion Studio!

In the fashion studio, decide on your role as either a tailor, fashion designer, or textile designer.

Talk about the different equipment each of these workers might need e.g. coloured pens, paper, computers, measuring tape, sewing machine, and/or fabrics.

Encourage your child to use their imagination and draw different patterns for their spectacular outfit design.



Why this learning matters

In this PlayWorld your child is learning mathematical concepts about pattern, shape and colour as they design a spectacular outfit.

They're also learning about planning for a party and how it feels to be included and excited about fun events. Talking about emotions helps children to name their feelings.

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