

We have a team of players, parents, coaches,
children's book authors, educators and coaching
directors at all levels who support the
preparation and editing of each story.
The stories are created with a specific target
audience of kids 3-6 year olds.

Visit storybooksoccer.com to purchase the
Storybook Soccer Program



Storybook Soccer

Backyard Action
Story for 3-6 Year
Olds

Crafted by
Frank Trovato

SET UP - Important Info!

We usually start with free goal scoring for the first 10 minutes to expend surface energy of the players. You can use anything to create goals, two shoes can be a goal. Make four of them (1 big step wide) on each side of a very large square. The large square should be around 15x15 big steps but use what ever space you have. Do make 4 goals. Explain to kids that to score a goal, one must kick the ball through any pair of shoes. Tell them they can score on any of the created goals. Don't allow them to just go on one goal. The more balls the better but be ready to contain them as young players will lose focus.

Having a starting place and return place for all balls is a good idea.

This story should take 45 minutes or more if properly paced. Read though the whole page, including activities, to the kids prior to activity. Ask players to sit or stand and do underlined action, from that page, 1 action at a time, for 1 minute each or more.

The underlined action/skill listed is the base skill. Start with that in the open space to develop understanding. After they do it well, you can ask them to do the action through any of the four goals, don't allow them to go on just one goal. After they show they can do it comfortably, ask them to do the action and shoot prior to reaching the goal, again not on one goal only.

Many underlined activities can be done one first with one foot then the other. Make sure you focus on experimentation on favorite and non favorite foot. Assess where your players are at and give them plenty of time for trial and error. Your demonstration and your happy and playful voice is the main motivator. Overly focused correction will not work. Your goal is high repetition so they may experiment and see what works best for them. Let them discover their strengths. This is the basis of a creative player.

When you are ready to turn the page or bring active players back to the storybook, use the phrase "LET'S SEE WHAT'S NEXT." While standing and doing activities, keep kids spaced out as much as possible and remind to keep head up to reduce collisions. While sitting kids can get handsy with each other, start early to remind them to keep hands to themselves. Kids of this age have a hard time identifying physical field boundaries, show them early and often. Be patient and positive while reinforcing, understand development takes a long time:)

Be Patient with Kids, DON'T over correct, DO let them see what works for them, you will be surprised.

Storybook Soccer

The Lonely Elephant



Storyteller Notes

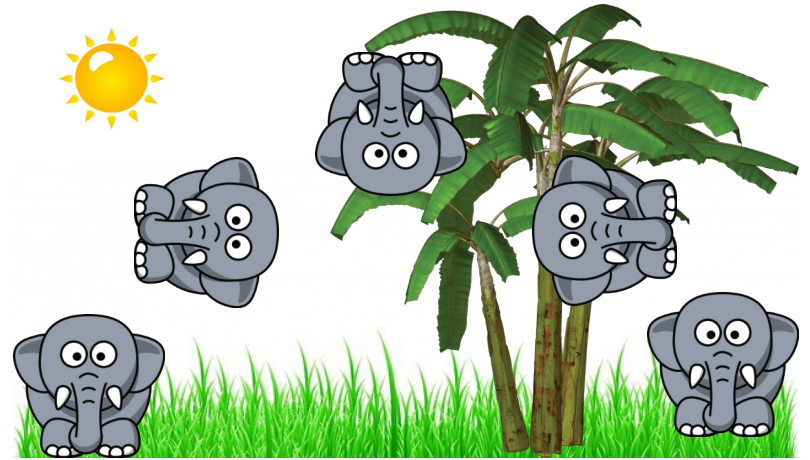
This is a standing and moving Action Page with no ball.

Stand on one leg and balance, stand on the other leg and balance. How long can you stay up without falling.

Ask kids what does an elephant do. Put your nose to your shoulder, and swing that same arm as trunk.

Can swing it side to side and up and down, trumpet loud!

Far away lives an Elephant in the jungle.
This Elephant smiles and loves to run and play. This Elephant's name is Thumpy.
Thumpy has big ears and a trunk for a nose. Thumpy is no ordinary Elephant.
Thumpy loves to:



Roll around

Jump back and forth

Stand on one leg and balance

Swing his trunk and trumpet

Storyteller Notes

This is a sitting and Resting Page with no ball.

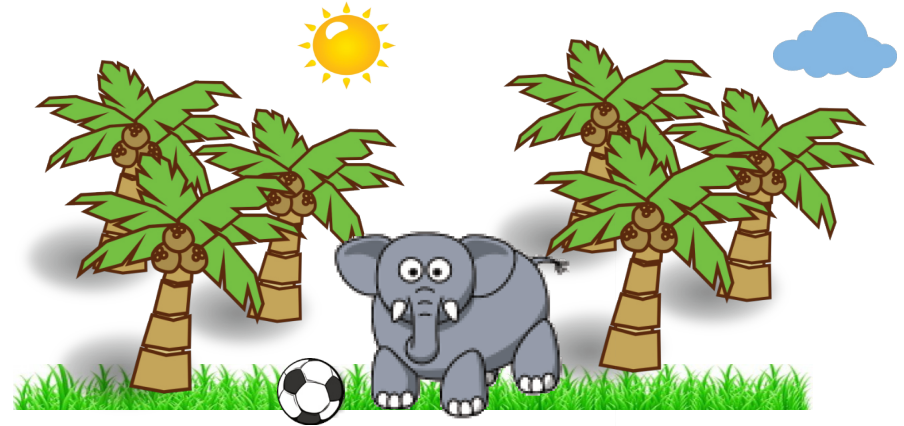
Read slowly with emotion

To teach skipping — select foot, step-then hop on that foot, switch feet - step and hop on it, switch feet step-hop, switch feet step-hop, repeat.

Have players pound open hands on ground to mimic
BOOM BOOM BOOM

Have kids do elephant trunk swings and trumpets!

Thumpy likes to play his games, but it was no fun playing alone. So he decided it was time to find others who like to play soccer, too.



Thumpy began to skip and laugh while running through the jungle. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! are the sounds of his very large feet pounding on the ground! Thumpy swings his trunk and trumpets!

Storyteller Notes

This is a standing and moving Action page with a ball.

Read through whole page

When completed ask players to get a ball

Do each activity listed for one minute or more. All of these activities start with the ball in the hands.

Remember to do favorite and non favorite foot, thigh, etc.

Ball in hands start, then kick out of own hands then run with it, first favorite foot, then try non favorite foot

Use hands to bounce ball off thigh or chest,

the ball drops to ground and they dribble with it, fast

Put ball between feet while standing and jump repeatedly while holding ball.

If you return to the book mid page or go get a drink, reread whole page to players prior to restarting on field.

Rereading the page provides reinforcement for the players.

As Thumpy runs into the jungle with a soccer ball, bouncing it on parts of the body. Thumpy likes to:



Bounce it on the thigh, let it drop, and run with it

Bounce it on the chest, let it drop, and run with it

Kick it with the foot from hands and run with it

Little throws and catches, try it running

Throw the ball in the air, let it bounce and catch it

Bounce it hard on the ground and catch it

Storyteller Notes

This is a standing and moving Action Page with a ball.

Cones serve as rocks - kick ball past cone jump
over cone

Carry ball and bounce it and catch it while
moving forward as fast as possible

Running around waving arms in air
can do anything

Throw ball high, let it bounce then catch it.

BOOM BOOM BOOM with hands and trumpet!

Elephant actions

WATER BREAK!

After a while Thumpy came across a
group of Monkeys player soccer.

The Monkeys were:



Kicking a ball and jumping over rocks

Carrying the ball in hands and bouncing it

Running around like Wild Monkeys

Throwing the ball high into the air!

Thumpy jumped up and down and ran toward the
Monkeys. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! "You look
like you are having great fun, may I join you?" said
Thumpy. "NO" said the Monkeys as they jumped up
and down, "You are too big, loud, and scary to play
with us. Please Go!"

Storyteller Notes

This is a standing and moving Action Page with a ball.

Roll ball around field with bottom of foot

Always do favorite then non favorite foot

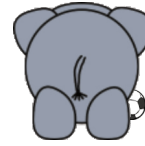
1 minute rolling forward

1 minute rolling backward

1 minute rolling sideways and side to side

BOOM BOOM BOOM with hands on ground

And Elephant trumpet!



Thumpy hung his head and walked back into the jungle. Thumpy thought about it and decided he wasn't going to allow Monkeys to keep him down. He was soon skipping through the jungle again. He soon came across a group of Jungle Cats playing soccer!

The Jungle Cats were rolling the ball with the bottom of their paws



They rolled it: Forward, Backward, and Sideways

The Elephant charged up to the Jungle Cats BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! and said, "That looks like fun, may I be your friend and play with you?"

"NO WAY" said the Cats as they ran away, "You are too big and scary to play with us."

Thumpy again hung his head and walked away.

Storyteller Notes

This is a standing and moving Action Page with the ball.

Point toe and use top of foot to dribble and shoot,
try favorite for 1 minute then try non favorite

Use hands to roll ball in and out of feet in
figure 8 pattern

Hold ball between feet and jump

At least 1 minute each activity or until they tire.

Thumpy wasn't a scaredy cat and was soon
skipping along when he saw a group of Panda

Bears playing with their soccer balls.

The Pandas were using the tops of their paws to
dribble and kick the ball

The Pandas were rolling the ball through their legs
with their front paws

The Pandas were holding the ball between their
back paws and jumping



Thumpy ran to the Pandas, BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!
and said, "That looks like great fun, may I join you and
be your friend?" "NO WAY" said the Pandas, "You are
too big and scary to be our friend. Please go away!"

Storyteller Notes

This is a sitting and resting page with no ball

Read slow and with emotion and dramatic pauses

Ask players what they think will happen before you turn
the page. What will Thumpy do?

Get responses

This time, Thumpy's trunk dragged on the ground as
he walked back into the jungle. Maybe he was too
different to play with the other animals he
thought. As Thumpy walked away he heard lots of
loud GROWLS coming from the jungle. Thumpy
turned and ran towards the sounds. He came around
a corner and found...



All the Animals were surrounded by a large group of
toothy Alligators! "GRRRRRRR" growled the
Alligators! "Oh My" yelled the all of the Animals.

Storyteller Notes

This is a sitting and Resting Page without a ball.

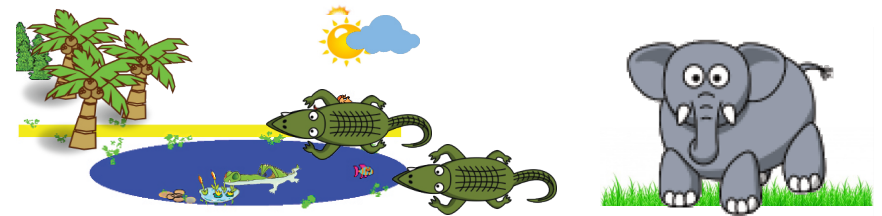
Read slowly and finish to the story.

BOOM BOOM BOOM with hands on ground and
Elephant trumpeting

Ask the kids what is the meaning of the story

Elephant actions to celebrate finish

Thumpy immediately charged the Alligators! BOOM!
BOOM! BOOM! The Alligator's eyes got big at the
sight and sounds of the Elephant charging at them!
They looked at each other and quickly ran for the
safety of the nearby pond. All of the scared Animals
watched in amazement as the frightened Alligators
slithered away.



The Animals stared at Thumpy as he slowly turned to
walk back into the jungle. One of the Monkeys stepped
forward and kicked a ball to Thumpy and said
“Where are you going? Would you like to play soccer
with us?” Thumpy turned, smiled and kicked the ball
back. All the Animals cheered and shouted,

“Let's Play Soccer!”



Thank you for reading this
story to this child and/or
children.

We are pleased and honored
to be part of your day and
this child's development.

Be Well

THE END

We hope you and yours
enjoyed the story:)

