



4. Let the children act out the race between the hare and the tortoise using puppets. Don't forget the other animals cheering at the end.

**Related books** *The Hare and the Tortoise* by Carol Jones  
*Hare and the Tortoise* by Helen Ward  
*I Can't Get My Turtle to Move* by Elizabeth Lee O'Donnell  
*The Tortoise and the Hare* by Janet Stevens

Monica Hay Cook, Tucson, AZ

## Calendar Collection

### OLDER TODDLERS

**Materials** old calendars with glossy photos of animals, famous paintings, and so on  
 play phone

- What to do**
1. Put out a variety of old calendars. Introduce the children to the images on each calendar page, the numbers in each date box, and the names of the days of the week.
  2. Cut up one of the calendars, separating the squares containing the dates for each day, and show the children how to put them in order on another calendar. Children this age may not recognize the numbers, but they can have fun putting the squares on top of each other.

Carol Crumley, Falls Church, VA

## Story Circle Dress Up

### OLDER TODDLERS

**Materials** collection of age-appropriate, familiar stories  
 construction paper strips  
 markers  
 hat  
 circular rug  
 box of simple costumes that fit the story being told



## DRAMATIC PLAY

- What to do**
1. Write the names of the characters in the story you will be reading on separate strips of paper. Put the strips in a hat.
  2. Gather the children on the rug along with the hat and a box of simple costumes.
  3. Present the story you will be reading to them for that day.
  4. Explain that they will become part of the story by dressing up as the characters.
  5. Pass around the hat filled with the names of characters in the story.
  6. Explain that each child will be able to dress up as a character in the story, that all the children will take turns being different characters, and that one child cannot be the same kind of character twice. For example, one little boy cannot be a prince in every story read.
  7. After the children have picked out a name, have them put on the costumes over their clothes.
  8. Read the story to the children and then have them re-enact it for dramatic play.

*Devon Kramer, Tonawanda, NY*

# The Three Bears

Downloaded by test@crvphonhouse.com from  
**OLDER TODDLERS**  
ProFilePlanner.com

**Materials** small, medium, and large versions of each of the following: chairs, bowls, spoons, blankets, pillows, books, cups, pitchers, plates, and stuffed bears

- What to do**
1. Set up your dramatic play area to resemble the home of "The Three Bears." Set a small table with the three sizes of bowls and spoons. Put out three sizes of chairs and make three "beds" on the floor with different-sized blankets and pillows.
  2. Gather the children into a circle in the dramatic play area and tell the story of "The Three Bears." If possible, tell the story without using a book. Use the props when telling the story.
  3. You might decide to change the ending of the story a little, perhaps Goldilocks can admit that she "goofed" so she goes back to the three bears' house to apologize and offer to help make some more porridge, repair the chair, and make up the bed again!
  4. Change the story in any number of ways to make it more relevant to the childrens' lives. For example, Goldilocks can be "Brownilocks" or "Curlylocks," the three bears can live in an apartment or on a farm, "Goldilocks" can be a boy, and so on. The possibilities are endless!