

The Elves and the Shoemaker



**Sensory story by
David Babatunde Wilson**

Transition Music

Music is integral to so many sensory stories. Consistent transition music at the start and end of a story helps to enable children and young people to anticipate what is coming next and to participate more fully in the story-sharing process. They also help to set the mood for the story.

Please feel free to choose your own transition music. The following are only suggestions:

Introductory music:

- **Nancy Sinatra – These Boots were made for Walking**

Story ending:

- **Pete the Cat – I Love my White Shoes song**



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Resources

You will need some sensory resources available for this story.

- **Leather fabric**
- **Shoes**
- **Toy tools**
- **Shoes**
- **Dolls' clothes**
- **Toy money / chocolate coins**
- **LED candle**
- **Shoelaces**
- **Feathers**

For many or some children and young people it may be appropriate to include gentle massage on children's backs or arms, being sensitive to tactile needs or tactile defensiveness. Suggestions for story massage are included with the resources for each section of the story.



Sensory Activities & Resources

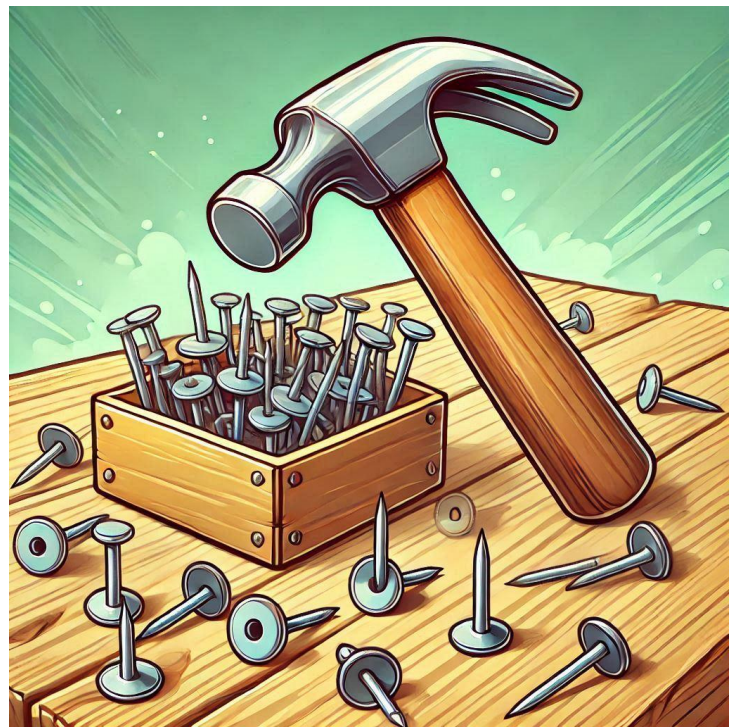
Toy tools: hammer chisel, screwdriver & saw

Sound switch or make noise of hammering

Children hammer small tacks or use
screwdriver (with guidance) in carrots or
polystyrene

Sound switch song – If I were a rich man

Massage: gentle tapping on hands and arms





The old shoemaker and his wife worked hard. They didn't have much money.

Sensory Activities & Resources

Toy tools: hammer chisel, screwdriver & saw
Laying out objects in a line
Feel leather-like fabric

Massage: drawing leather fabric tight over
arms or cheeks





The shoemaker carefully laid out his last piece of leather and his tools.

Sensory Activities & Resources

Shoes in shoe-box for children to reveal and
“discover”

(It is a good idea to have a variety of shoes so
that each reveal in successive readings is
different)

Massage: “walk” heel of hand to finger tips up
and down back





In the morning, the shoemaker and his wife were shocked to find a beautiful pair of shoes on the bench.

Sensory Activities & Resources

Toy tools: hammer chisel, screwdriver & saw
Lots of shoes – different sizes, different styles

Massage: draw laces over arms and tickle
skin with ends of laces





**Each day the old man left
leather and tools out and
found beautiful new
shoes in the morning.**

Sensory Activities & Resources

Toy cash machine

Take students' shoes off and on again

Massage: soft, gentle massage of feet and
toes





The shoes were so beautiful and soft that lots of people wanted to buy them.

Sensory Activities & Resources

Toy money

Soundswitch song – Money, money, money by
Abba

Massage: drumming fingers back from
temple, behind ears, down neck and
shoulders





**The old man and his wife
were now rich.
But how were the shoes
being made?**

Sensory Activities & Resources

Lit LED candles

Wax candles to feel & smell

Sound switch of a clock ticking

Massage: roll wax candle up and down arms





**The old man and his wife
stayed up late to see
what happened.**

Sensory Activities & Resources

Torn / ragged fabric
Laughter on sound switch or on screen

Massage: tickling back of neck with a feather





They peeked round the door at night. They saw three little elves dressed in rags. The elves laughed as they made the beautiful shoes.

Sensory Activities & Resources

Felt fabric
Dolls' clothes





The next day the shoemaker and his wife carefully made a little set of colourful clothes.

Sensory Activities & Resources

Song – Happy by Pharell Williams or Don't Worry, Be Happy

Massage: support arms to wave to the song





**When the elves came in
they tried on the clothes.
They were so happy!**



Though he was born in Nigeria and brought up in Botswana, David Babatunde Wilson is settled in North Yorkshire. He divides his time between his jobs as a Dad, household cook, Guide helper, writing poetry and working as a Special Needs teacher.

David has had poems published in a variety of online and paper publications including Disabled Tales, View from Atlantis, Beyond the Pane and the Ledbury Poetry Festival.