



## Inclusive and sensory activities

Activity ideas to support the use of the Primary 3 Read, Write, Count bag items at home or in school

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## About this resource

The aim of this resource is to make the items in the Primary 3 Read Write Count bag accessible to all. The activities in this resource are for pupils with a variety of needs, including additional support needs, English as an additional language and those disengaged from reading.

These activities are flexible and are for use in both the classroom and the home. Teachers and learning professionals are welcome to share these activities with parents and carers in whatever method is most appropriate to your setting.

## Activities for *Octopus Shocktopus!* by Peter Bently and Steven Lenton

### Hunt the object

Collect together some of the objects in the story (football, teddy, hairdryer etc.) and put them in a bag. Take it in turns to pull an object out of the bag and search for it in the book.

### Active octopus

Re-tell a very simple version of the story using actions and/or props.

Choose one or two activities per page (and skip some pages if you like). Either use an object (see above) or simply mime the action. Many children enjoy repetition so you could repeat the opening rhyme before each new action, like this:

*One day we found an octopus*

*Had come to live on top of us.*

*She slept and sometimes snored.* [Mime sleeping and snoring]

*One day we found an octopus*

*Had come to live on top of us.*

*She rescued Gracie's teddy.* [Mime rescuing teddy – use teddy as a prop]

*One day we found an octopus*

*Had come to live on top of us.*

*She hung up all the washing* [Mime pegging up washing – use pegs and/or clothes as a prop]

*One day we found an octopus*

*Had come to live on top of us.*

*She swept up all the leaves.* [Mime sweeping – or use a small brush]

*And so on...*

You could finish with:

*One day we found lots of octopus*

*Had come to live on top of us!*

*Knitting and reading and baking and playing...* [Mime many activities quite quickly to show general busyness]

### **What would you choose?**

*The village baker Sid would rather have a squid!* Which animal would you and your child like to come and live with you? Try giving your child a choice between two animals to make it simpler. (e.g. *Would you like to live with a horse or a penguin?*)

You could use the Beastie Battle cards for this – offer your child two animal cards: *Who would you want to live with?* Alternatively, you could use any animal toys your child has.

### **Sock octopus**

If you look online, you can find instructions to make an octopus out of an odd sock (try searching for 'child's craft sock octopus'). Improvise by using an old pair of tights or more odd socks for stuffing and draw the face on with felt tips if you do not have any beads or buttons handy.

Then try acting out the story with your octopus as you read it. You could also take it in turns to balance the octopus on your head!

## **Activities for *The Last Wolf* by Mini Grey**

### **Forest in a bag**

Collect together some bits of forest (with your child if possible) so you can see and feel the forest as you tell the story. Collect sticks and twigs, leaves and bark (from the ground not the tree), lichen, pinecones, and mushrooms (from the greengrocer's to be safe!)

## **Little Red action game**

Little Red moves in lots of different ways through the forest...Try making up actions with your child for the different kinds of movement (Lurk, slither, run etc.). The actions could be acted out either as you move around the room, or they could be actions you do whilst sitting down.

Then role-play Little Red's journey through the forest, using the actions in any order you like. Repeat a phrase such as '*one day Little Red went into the forest*' and then add an action, like this:

*One day Little Red went into the forest.*

*Little Red ran!* [mime running]

*One day Little Red went into the forest.*

*Little Red slithered!* [mime slithering]

*One day Little Red went into the forest.*

*Little Red pounced!* [mime pouncing]

And so on.

## **Little Red tactile story**

Use the same simple story of Little Red's journey through the forest as above. But this time 'tell' the story on your child's arm or back. Use your index and middle finger to 'walk' up your child's arm as you say:

*One day Little Red went into the forest.*

Then choose an action to come back down your child's arm. Suggestions for actions might be:

Stalking – very slow hesitant 'walking' with two fingers

Lurking – 'drawing' a circle round and round with your index finger

Jumping – two fingers 'jumping' gently from spot to spot

Slithering – two fingers gently 'dragged' down your child's arm

Wandering – one finger 'drawing' a wandering path down your child's arm

Repeat this, 'walking' up the arm and coming back down several times using a different action each time.

*Little Red went into the forest.*

*Little Red stalked...*

*Little Red went into the forest.*

*Little Red lurked...*

And so on.

You could finish this little story after a few repetitions with a knock at the door (very gently 'knock' on the back of your child's hand or on a table) and a *'hello Mr Wolf'* as you shake your child's hand.

## **Activities for using the Beastie Battle cards**

### **Tactile beasties**

This activity is for children who enjoy tactile fun.

Choose three or four of the beastie cards and put them face down. You or your child choose cards in turn and then act out the animals in a tactile way for each other.

Suggestions for tactile actions could be:

Mouse – two fingers 'running' up your child's arm

Snail – same as above but moving slowly

Daddy Long Legs – same as above but using more fingers

Caterpillar – same as above but with one wriggly finger

Midge – one finger 'hopping' from place to place on your child

Robin – very soft 'pecking' with thumb and index finger on your child's arm (a very gentle pinch)

Wildcat – use your flat hands to 'pad' softly on the backs of your child's hands

Pony – as above but beat out a rhythm with slightly firmer hands

Wolf – 'catch' the child like a fierce animal with howling noises etc! (Only if they enjoy this kind of play.)

It can be fun to mix the wolf in with some gentle animals so that the game contains an element of suspense as the cards get turned over. (*Uh-oh – is it going to be the wolf?*)

## **Activities for using the story cards**

### **Magical journeys**

Choosing one of the more magical settings from the cards (space, top of a mountain, in the rainforest), 'draw' this setting on your child's back. This soothing activity is good for bedtime or naptime.

Make up a simple description as you use your index finger to 'draw', for example: *we're going far away* [draw a winding path] *to a great forest with tall trees and huge leaves* [draw trees] *and rain falling all day long* [make raindrops on your child's back with fingertips] ... Add in as many soothing details as you like. Your child may like to

guess which card you have been describing when you have finished (or possibly, they will have fallen fast asleep!).

## **Silly stories**

Make up a silly story or rhyme with your child. Choose three characters cards, three settings cards and three items cards. Then re-read or re-tell one of your child's favourite stories or rhymes. But substitute in these characters, settings and items. (Your child could choose which cards to use.) *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* might become a story about *The Very Hungry Astronaut* who eats lots of pens and maps... You might have three little unicorns jumping on the bed instead of monkeys...

Some children may enjoy this activity more if you use objects from around the house rather than the cards. Soft toys could become the characters in the story, wooden spoons and wellie boots etc. could become the items...

## **Activities for using the routine cards**

### **What is teddy doing today?**

Get a soft toy ready for one of the activities on the routine cards (Give the toy some toothpaste, a wooden spoon, a pillow etc.). Ask your child what activity they think the toy is doing. Perhaps they can match it with the routine card depicting that activity?

## **Activities for using the measuring tape**

### **Measuring tape snake**

The measuring tape can be turned into a snake! Cut a snakehead out of an old cereal packet and attach it with tape to one end of the measuring tape. Your child could be in charge of the snake as you creep past saying:

*There's a big snake in the grass*

*Do you think he'll let me pass...*

Then your child can decide whether to pounce with the snake or not!