

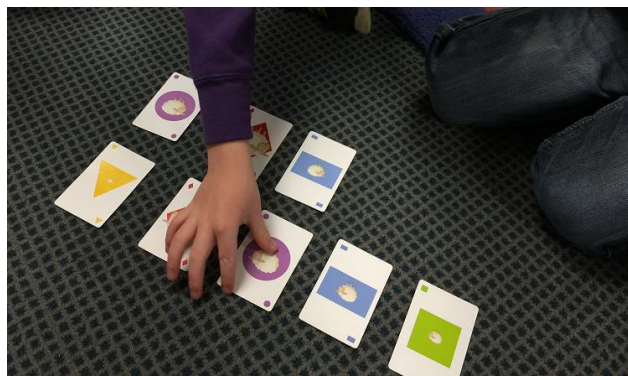
Pori Drwy Stori Case Study: Hafod Primary School



Hafod Primary School use Hide and Sheep cards as a fun, flexible resource to enhance learning through a variety of games. The cards also provide a useful assessment tool and are shared with parents/carers to support learning at home.

The Approach

Hafod Primary School is an English-medium school in Swansea. The community includes a large number of families who have English as an Additional Language. Stuart Whiffin, the Reception teacher, uses the Hide and Sheep cards extensively with children before they take a set home. Children enjoy using the cards, become familiar with games to teach their families, and are very excited to receive their own set!



Children playing a range of games with cards, including pairing and ordering cards according to different criteria.

The Games

'Find the Sheep'

This develops positional language, which Stuart feels is particularly important for his pupils with English as an Additional Language.

'Pairs'

Stuart uses the cards to play *Snap*. He also notices that children like to match cards using number, colour or shapes during free-choice. Often two or more children will do this together and talk about where to place cards.

'Numicon Match'

The children are familiar with Numicon patterns and they order the cards from lowest to highest and highest to lowest. For SEN children, using Numicon pegs placed on the dots is useful for 1-1 correspondence and to aid recognition of the number pattern. The children check their answers with Numicon pieces.

'Size Order'

After observing that children chose number, colour and shape to order the sheep, Stuart noted the children did not use size so he initiated a game to develop this. Giving the children half the pack (splitting it into numbers 1-5 and 6-10 so each group has one of each size sheep), pupils are asked to sequence the sheep in order of size. Stuart encourages the description of size using additional vocabulary (minute, tiny, small, big, huge, enormous) and comparative language (not so big, smaller than, larger than, bigger than, smallest, biggest). The children enjoy turning over the cards after they have ordered the sheep to find they are in the correct number order, describing this as 'magic!'

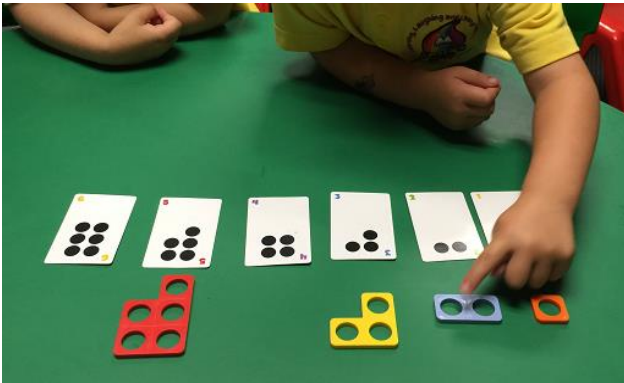
'Addition and Subtraction'

Two sheep pens are made of Lego. One card is placed in each pen. The child turns the cards over and either adds or subtracts the numbers. If the child is correct, they keep the cards. MAT children can potentially go up to or back from 20 with the cards. For differentiation numbers can be reduced by limiting the cards.

'Naughty Sheep'

The sheep escape and appear in small-world play, along the corridor and even in the school garden! The children play the role of sheep dogs, hunting the missing sheep, describing where they are found and sorting the pack back into the correct order. Sheep also appear in school bags and reading books, surprising parents/carers. Children are very excited to find sheep and Stuart also uses this game to initiate new activities in the provision, asking, "Where are those naughty sheep now?"

The Results



Stuart likes knowing that all children have a set of cards at home so that he can set home-tasks that reinforce classroom learning.

Classroom Learning

Hide and Sheep cards are popular with children and Stuart finds the activities strongly support many Literacy and Numeracy Framework statements. Stuart's planning incorporates the cards in the Continuous and Enhanced Provision, as part of carousel activities, and in both free choice and planned focussed tasks. Since using the cards, he has noted a development in the range of children's independent use of positional language.

Assessment Tool

Stuart has also used the Hide and Sheep cards as an assessment tool in the transition into Reception. Playing games in small groups allows children to demonstrate recognition and ordering of numbers to 5 and identify shapes and colours. Due to the range of skills the cards can show, Stuart finds them useful to set targets and identify next steps and plans to use the cards to assess skills linked to the Early Years Development Assessment Framework.

Home Learning

Before children took home their own set of cards, parents/carers were already curious and interested as children had been talking about the games. Once the cards were received families played a number of the class games at home. Finding the 'Naughty Sheep' has consolidated learning in a fun way that has been extended to the home and Stuart often reminds parents/carers to support learning with the cards when he sets home activities that link to number, colour, size or shape. Stuart particularly likes knowing the children each have a set of cards at home so he can refer to these when he sets home tasks.

Stuart says, "I love the flexibility of the Hide and Sheep cards. They are a valuable resource that the children enjoy using. I would not want to be without my sets in class."

[Find more ideas in our Hide and Sheep videos and additional Pori Drwy Stori case studies.](#)