

1, 2, 3, Splosh!

by David Melling



Dechrau Da
Bookstart
BookTrust Cymru

Developing the story

- **Flap, jump, bounce!** Ask the children to mimic the movements of the ducks in the story. Walk around the room and encourage them to follow you whilst flapping their arms like wings, quacking and waddling like a duck.
- **Match the eggs.** Collect a few empty egg cartons and fill with different coloured plastic eggs or balls. Ask the children to sort the eggs and match the colours.
- **Get outdoors.** If your local park has a duck pond, why not organise a special story time outdoors? Children will love seeing the ducks splashing in the water just like the ones in the story!
- **Splish, splash, splosh!** Fill a plastic bowl or tub with water and set up a few rubber ducks to one side. Let each child drop a duck into the water, counting them as you go.

Craft ideas

- **Egg decorating.** Lay out some glue, tissue paper, fabric scraps or glitter along with some polystyrene craft eggs and let the children get creative!
- **Miniature duck pond.** Cut some duck shapes out of yellow paper. Paint a paper plate blue and glue the duck in the middle. You could also decorate your pond with green tissue or pipe cleaner 'plants' and some paper fish shapes.
- **Fluffy ducks.** Print out some simple duck templates and decorate with craft feathers and glue. Make a hole in the top and hang up with some string or ribbon.

Rhymes

Little Baby Ducklings

Little baby ducklings – dash, dash, dash.
Jumped in the duck pond – splash, splash, splash!
When their Mother called them – quack,
quack, quack!
Little baby ducklings – swam right back.

All the Little Ducks go Upside Down

(Tune: 'Mary Had a Little Lamb')

All the little ducks go upside down,
Upside down, upside down.
All the little ducks go upside down,
As they dabble at the bottom of the pond.

All their little beaks go snap, snap, snap,
Snap, snap, snap, snap, snap, snap.
All their little beaks go snap, snap, snap,
As they dabble at the bottom of the pond.

All their little tails go wiggle, waggle, wiggle,
Wiggle, waggle, wiggle, wiggle, waggle, wiggle.
All their little tails go wiggle, waggle, wiggle,
As they dabble at the bottom of the pond.

Two Little Ducks

Two little ducks, sitting on a hill,
One named Jack, one named Jill.
Fly away Jack, fly away Jill,
Come back Jack, come back Jill.



Cuddle Bear

by Claire Freedman



Dechrau Da
Bookstart
BookTrust Cymru

Developing the story

- **Musical bears!** Ask the children to sit in a circle and play some music as they pass a teddy bear around. When the music stops, ask the child holding the teddy bear if they'd like to give it a cuddle.
- **Animal surprise.** Gather a variety of soft toys, puppets or plastic figures (whatever you can find!) of some of the animals featured in the story and put them in a box with a lid. Let the children pass the box around in a circle and take it in turns to pick an animal. Talk about the way each animal looks, does it have feathers? Fur? What colour is it? Ask about the sounds and movements it makes, then ask the children to try mimicking each animal.
- **Bear hugs.** Ask the children to bring along their favourite teddy bear to the session. Get them to give their own bear a great big cuddle at the end of the story!
- **Mirror, mirror.** Talk about the characters in the book and their emotions (lonely, lost, sad, frightened). Ask the children to face each other or their parents/carers and mirror each other's facial expressions.

Craft ideas

- **Paper bears.** Cut out some paper doll figures and include some ears to make them teddy bear shaped (there are plenty of free templates online). Use felt pens or paints to decorate and ask children to draw different facial expressions on them.
- **Textured brown bear.** Paint a paper plate with glue and sprinkle on some coffee grounds. Make some simple eye, nose, mouth and ear shapes from cardboard and glue on the facial features. You could even add a lolly stick to the back to create a simple bear mask.
- **Collage teddy bear.** Print out some simple bear templates onto white paper and glue scraps of brown paper or fabric on to it. Cut out circles of black paper for the eyes and nose. If you have spare buttons or sequins why not add these too? Or a ribbon bowtie?

Rhyme

Five Little Bears

One little bear,
Wondering what to do,
Along came another,
Then there were two!

Two little bears,
Climbing up a tree,
Along came another,
Then there were three!

Three little bears,
Ate an apple core,
Along came another,
Then there were four!

Four little honey bears,
Found honey in a hive,
Along came another,
Then there were five!



Hapus...

by Emma Dodd



Dechrau Da
Bookstart
BookTrust Cymru

Developing the story

- **Happy songs!** Ask the children which songs make them feel happy. Sing some of their favourite songs together as a group.
- **Fun and loud games.** Play loud music and get the children to hop and skip like the happy little owl in the story. Stop the music and ask the children to try to keep as still as a statue until the music starts again.
- **Little owls.** Using coloured scarves, give each child two so that they can hold one in each hand and swoop, soar and flap their 'wings' like owls.
- **Woodland scene.** Make a treasure box or a nest from hay and decorate with feathers, twigs, leaves and pinecones. Add an owl figure/soft toy if you have one and let the children explore!

Craft ideas

- **Night owls.** On a black sheet of paper, draw a round shape and colour it in with white chalk. Cut out a triangle beak and glue it on with some large wiggly eyes. Add some glitter stars and a moon cut out of silver foil or paper.
- **Owl mask.** Cut two large eye holes out of a paper plate. Paint the plate with glue and stick on some craft feathers. Cut out a triangle beak from some paper and glue it over the feathers. Make a hole on either side of the mask and thread ribbon or string through each side to fasten the mask on.
- **Finger puppet.** Glue together two craft pom poms and wrap a pipe cleaner around the middle, making a ring shape. Cut out three small paper triangles, glue two to the bottom pom pom for feet and the other on the middle of the top pom pom for a beak. Stick on some round paper eyes and a feather on either side. Hook the ring over your finger and wave your hand to make your owl fly through the air!

Rhymes

How Are You Feeling?

(Tune: 'Hickory Dickory Dock')

How are you feeling today?
Oh, how are you feeling today?
I'm happy and glad, happy and glad,
That's how I'm feeling today.

If You're Happy and You Know It

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're happy and you know it, then your face
will surely show it.
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

If you're angry and you know it, stamp your feet...
If you're scared and you know it, hide your eyes...
If you're sad and you know it, say boo hoo...
If you're lonely and you know it, give a hug...



Honc Honc!

by Petr Horáček



Dechrau Da
Bookstart
BookTrust Cymru

Developing the story

- **Favourite animal.** Talk about the sounds and movements each animal makes and then ask the children to sit in a circle. Roll a ball to one of the children, then when they catch it, ask them to recreate the sound of an animal from the book.
- **Copycat.** Ask one child to be the cat and clap a rhythm for the group. Ask the other children to listen and then be copycats, clapping the same rhythm as the cat. Let each child have a go at being the cat and creating a rhythm for the copycats to imitate.
- **Sensory farm.** Add some straw, feathers, wool, felt and any scraps of fluffy material to a large box. If you have any plastic farm animal figures or tractors, add these too. You could make a pond from foil, fence posts from lolly sticks and even add some compost to a small pot to make a muddy pig pen. Let the children explore the different textures of the animals and farm setting from the book.

Craft ideas

- **Woolly sheep!** Cut out sheep shapes from heavy white paper. Paint the body of the sheep with glue and then press on some cotton wool balls to cover. Use a felt tip to add facial features and colour in the legs.
- **Cat ear headband.** Cut two long strips of thin card and staple them together at the ends to form the headband. Cut out two triangles of card to staple to the front for the ears. If you have face paints, you could draw on whiskers too.
- **Handprint pig.** Get the children to make handprints on thin card using pink paint. Glue a circle over the thumb print for the head and draw on some triangles for ears. Stick on some wiggly eyes and a curly pink pipe cleaner tail.

Rhymes

On the Farm

(Tune: 'Wheels on the Bus')

The geese on the pond go honk, honk, honk,
Honk, honk, honk. Honk, honk, honk.
The geese on the pond go honk, honk, honk,
All around the farm.

The cow in the barn goes moo, moo, moo,
Moo, moo, moo. Moo, moo, moo.
The cow in the barn goes moo, moo, moo,
All around the farm.

The pig in the pen goes oink, oink, oink...
The dog in the field goes woof, woof, woof...
The sheep on the hill go baa, baa, baa...

This Little Piggy

This little piggy went to market,
This little piggy stayed at home,
This little piggy had roast beef,
This little piggy had none,
And this little piggy cried 'wee wee wee'
All the way home.

