

Play is the most powerful way young children learn.

Every time you play, sing or read to young children they are learning about language.

By sharing this book and play activities with them they will have the opportunity to:

- Play and learn in a positive environment that values all children as individuals.
- Use reading and writing in meaningful contexts.
- Celebrate their achievements and help them to reach their full potential.

We hope these activities will provide you with a starting point for fun play with young children.

Engaging With Language and Literacy



- After reading the story give the children the opportunity to share their favourite parts of the story and any similar personal experiences.

Revisit some of the pages in the story and ask the children to retell what happened.

- Make a list with the children of all the new things Fiona experienced on her big day. Encourage the children to share new experiences and 'Big Days' they have had.

Write down their ideas and let them illustrate them. Create a display with the title 'My Big Day'.

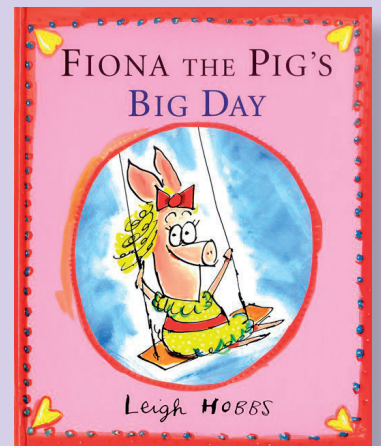
- Play a memory game

Begin with the sentence "In my school bag I will pack...". Name one item to pack in the school bag. The next child repeats what you have said and adds one more item and so on.

This game is best played by a small group of children to increase their chance of successfully remembering the items. If playing in a large group you can restart the game when it is getting too hard to remember all the items.

Praise all the children's efforts and give clues if needed.

- Talk about the different feelings that the characters in the book had. Ask the children lots of who, why and when questions. Give the children opportunities to share times when they have felt the same way.



Fiona the Pig's Big Day

by Leigh Hobbs

Notes

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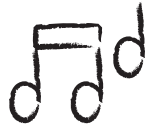
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Notes

Enjoying Musical
and Dramatic Play

- Create an area for dressing up. Provide clothes, shoes, scarves, handbags and mirrors for the children. Observe the role-play that emerges from their dressing up. Can you extend their play by providing other props for them?

- Fiona enjoyed having tea parties with her dollies.

Help the children to organise a tea party for their toys.

Make a list with the children of things you might need, e.g.

- Table and chairs or picnic blanket
- Tea set
- Food and drinks (real or pretend)

The children could also make invitations for the toys.

- Sing songs with the children while you are playing with them, for example, *Polly Put the Kettle On* and *I'm a Little Teapot*.

- Sing songs that give children the opportunity to share actions that they are confident with as well as try new ones, e.g. *Punchinello* and *Everybody Do This*

- Teach the children the song '*I Can Run As Fast As You*'.

Take photos of the children while they are participating in the song.

Use the photos and the words from the song to make a book for the children to read.

Enjoy sharing the book and all the clever things the children can do.

Other books to try:

Cleversticks by Bernard Ashley and Derek Brazell

Jasper's Beanstalk by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen

Old Tom by Leigh Hobbs

Old Tom's Holiday by Leigh Hobbs

Old Tom Man of Mystery by Leigh Hobbs

Horrible Harriet by Leigh Hobbs

Hooray for Horrible Harriet by Leigh Hobbs

Rhymes:

Polly Put the Kettle On

Polly put the kettle on,
Polly put the kettle on,
Polly put the kettle on,
We'll all have tea.
Sukey take it off again,
Sukey take it off again,
Sukey take it off again,
They've all gone away.

I'm a Little Teapot

I'm a little teapot,
Short and stout.
Here is my handle,
Here is my spout.
When I get all steamed up
Then I shout,
Tip me over
Pour me out.

Punchinello

Children make a circle, choose one child to be Punchinello who stands in the middle. Ask 'Punchinello' to perform an action, e.g. clapping hands, hopping etc while the children sing...

What can you do,
Punchinello, funny fellow?
What can you do,
Punchinello, funny you?

The children in circle copy the action that Punchinello is doing.

We can do it, too,s
Punchinello, funny fellow,
We can do it, too,
Punchinello, funny you!

Punchinello then chooses another child to be Punchinello.

You choose one of us,
Punchinello, funny fellow,
You choose one of us,
Punchinello, funny you!

Notes

