

Play is the most powerful way young children learn.

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

The following activities have been designed for early childhood professionals to use as a starting point for developing children's early literacy skills through play.

Please feel free to adapt them for the home and with children of different ages.

Don't forget to record your own ideas, activities that worked really well, relevant songs and rhymes in the Notes section opposite.

Visit our website www.thelittlebigbookclub.com for more fun printable activities based on this book.

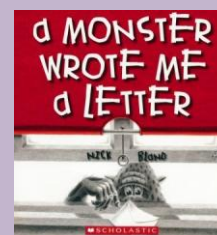
Engaging with Language and Literacy

A book is like a garden carried in the pocket. Chinese Proverb

- Read the title and look at the illustration before reading the story with the children. Talk about monsters and allow the children to share their knowledge of monsters.
- You may like to ask some open-ended questions before starting the story like
 - “I wonder why the monster wrote a letter?”
 - “I wonder who the monster is writing a letter too?”

The back of the book also has some interesting questions to ask the children.

- When reading the story, place the emphasis on the last word of each rhyming couplet. This will help the children to identify the rhyming words. As the children become familiar with the story they will be able to predict which rhyming word is coming next. Rhyming is a great way to improve phonemic awareness.
- When reading the story stop to discuss the boy and the monster's feelings. How do you think the boy feels? How do you think the monster feels? Why do you think they feel that way?
- While reading the story draw attention to the coloured items in the illustrations. This activity is entertaining for young children and identifying objects, such as a yellow rubber ducky or the monster's brown shoes involves them in the telling of the tale.
- After reading the story discuss with the children the concept of letter writing. Have they ever received a letter or an invitation? How did the letter get to their home?



A Monster Wrote Me A Letter Nick Bland

Notes

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- Each child could have their own post box with their photo and a number on it.
- Shoeboxes or tissue boxes make great post boxes.
- When the children are writing letters to their friends encourage them to include an “address” on the envelope with the corresponding number to their friend’s post box.
- You may even like to make keys for the boxes.
- The children can also make a large post box for the centre and help sort the mail each day.
- Don’t forget to include envelopes, stamps and a variety of papers.
- Many shops and cafes have free postcards that can be used in the post office.
- Ask parents to save old stamps for the children to use.
- The children could design their own stamps draw them onto small labels.
- Think about including nametags with all of the children’s names for their friends to copy when they are writing letters to each other.

The children may like to make mobile phones or computers from box construction. Or you may have access to old computers and phones for the children to play with.

As part of a cooking session the children can make monster pancakes. The children can help mix the batter. The more misshaped or irregular looking pancake is, the better. Decorate the cooked pancakes with a variety of toppings.

More Books By Nick Bland:

Aussie Jingle Bells

I've Lost My Kisses

Donald Loves Drumming

The Very Cranky Bear

When Henry Caught Imaginitis

The Wrong Book

Useful Websites and Links:

For Printable Activities:

www.thelittlebigbookclub.com

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....