

**Story Overview:**

*Little Blue has been lost for a very long time.  
One day Will is walking through the forest when he finds Little Blue.  
Together they go on a magical journey to try and find her home.  
After searching high and low, Will takes Little Blue home to discover that is where she belonged all along.  
“Will!” cried Grandmother. ‘You’ve found the little blue girl!’ and there on the dresser was a blue and white china plate. There was a piece missing.*

**Introduction:**

Setting the scene for the book will not only help children engage with the story but it will also help with their comprehension.

Before the children arrive, set up a small picnic with a blanket, tea set or pretend food. (You will also need a paper plate with a piece cut out) When the children arrive tell them that you were having a picnic and begin to pack it away. Show them the paper plate and explain that you must have dropped it and broken it – now you have lost a piece.  
Make the connection that today’s story is about a little girl who was lost.

**After Reading:**

Gaye Chapman has a very distinctive style. You might like to read some other books that she has illustrated:

- *Precious Little*
- *My Sister Olive*

**Sing:**

Children need a balance between sitting and being active.

Adapt the words to *Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush* to retell *Little Blue’s* journey home.

*This is the way we climb the hills  
Climb the hills  
This is the way we climb the hills  
On our way home*

*This is the way we climb a tree . . .  
This is the way we pick the plumbs. . . etc*

Use your judgement as to whether children can all stand up to do the actions or whether making up hand actions would be more suitable.



**This book was featured in May 2012 ART IN PICTURE BOOKS**

This *Learning Time* has been developed for libraries, playgroups and child care centres to use during their Story Time sessions.

It can easily be adapted to use in the home.

**Notes**

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## Play:

Refer back to the story so the children can draw their own picture of Little Blue's home. Laminate their pictures and help them to cut them into shapes to make a puzzle they can put back together again.

## Create:

### A Little Blue

- Mix green and yellow paint to make blue.
- Paint with different shades of blue.
- Make a collage with blue materials

### Idea For Home

Suggest to parents to make their own decorated plates at home based on a favourite book. If they don't have a favourite book, suggest a well know story such as *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.

### Observational Drawings

Most of the story is set outside. Give children the opportunity to look carefully and draw nature:

- Go outside where you can be close to a tree or garden.
- Bring nature inside, find an interesting plant, flower or leafy branch.
- Buy a flowering blue plant or blue floral arrangement.
- By giving children just one colour to draw with their focus will be on what the plant looks like, black is a great colour for observational drawing but in this case you might want to try blue!

### Activity Time

There are free instructions and printable templates on our website to make your own beautiful story plates.



A vertical grey bar on the right side of the page containing 20 horizontal dotted lines for writing.