



Presents



Early Years Education Pack

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Introduction

Dear Early Years Practitioners,

We have designed this pack to support and extend learning around your performance of The Big ENORMOUS Present.

We hope that the children enjoy seeing the story of The Big ENORMOUS Present brought to life.

Story telling provides such a vital part of developing language, communication, imaginative and emotional skills.

The activities which follow should be seen as open ended – allowing children to take their learning and play in new directions as they respond to the stimuli of the story.

We hope that this pack provides a useful jumping off point...

Tina and Nicola.

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Make a 'Big ENORMOUS Present' Story Folder

To encourage parental engagement in this story, prepare a story folder to go home with the children. Parental engagement is likely to mean greater involvement with the story. Learning outcomes for children improve when parents read to and share experiences with their children.

You could include the story of 'The Big ENORMOUS Present', downloaded from the Pied Piper Theatre website, and some laminated pictures of the main characters and story images, which can also be found on our website: www.piedpipertheatre.co.uk

For children for whom English is their second language, also include translations of words in the child's home language in the story folder. (This may seem time consuming but is essential for EAL children to connect with the story.) Here are the key words and key messages within the story. You can find translations on google translate.

Key words: present, friends, big, enormous, playground, scooter, soldier.

Key messages: difference, friendship, understanding, missing someone, empathy, sharing, loneliness, kindness, giving and receiving.

Area of learning:

C&L Listening and Attention - ELG, Understanding - ELG, Speaking - ELG

L Reading and Writing - ELG

UW People and Communities - ELG, The World – ELG

Characteristics of Effective Learning:

Playing and Exploring, Active Learning, Creating and Thinking Critically.





Making Friends

Discussing the themes of The Big ENORMOUS Present offers an opportunity to help early years children in their development of positive friendship skills.

In the play Jack and Dot learn about being sensitive to the feelings and views of others, and Polly must learn about balancing the needs and feelings of others with the validity of her own needs and wants.

There is an interesting article on the importance and benefits of childhood friendships with regard to physical and mental health here:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/parenting/wp/2016/07/25/the-importance-of-childhood-friendships-and-how-to-nurture-them/?utm_term=.90b73dea13a3

The academic article this is based on is here: <http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v13n1/yyu.html> this talks about the difficulties of children with disabilities in forming friendships and is well worth a read for those working with children with special needs.

Reading aloud the illustrated story from our website is a great re-cap to prompt a circle time discussion about friendship and compromise (using the example of conflict resolution by sharing the scooter).

You could introduce some similar conflict scenarios and the children could role play resolutions.

Story and Discussion

Taking turns around the circle each child can try to think of a different example of what they like about friends.

Further Resources:

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-t-4334-good-friend-discussion-and-sorting-cards>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-t-2548966-eyfs-all-about-kindness-powerpoint>





The Big ENORMOUS Box of Feelings

Starting with a discussion of some of Polly's feelings in the play make a list of as many feelings as the children can think of, adding from their own experience.

How does Polly feel...

When her dad is away?

When Jack and Dot didn't play with her?

When she finds out the Big ENORMOUS Present is for her?

When she gives presents to other people?

When Jack and Dot open one of her presents without asking?

Once you have a list children can draw pictures of faces showing each feeling to place in a gift wrapped Big ENORMOUS Box of feelings.

The box can be dipped into when children want help to express how they are feeling, and for future discussions of feelings / conflict resolution / opposing views etc.





Storytime

Story and Discussion

Activity: small group

Read the story to a small group and then use open questioning to establish whether children have grasped the story's plot.

Concepts worth checking for understanding:

What does enormous mean?

Polly's Dad is a soldier in the Army. What is a soldier? What is the Army?

What is a tank?

Mr Brown is retiring. What does retiring mean?

Discussion:

Why do we give people presents?

How does it feel to get a present?

How does it feel to give someone a present?

Is it good to see someone else get something- to share in their happiness and feel pleased for them?

Area of learning:

C&L Listening and Attention - ELG, Understanding - ELG, Speaking - ELG

PSE Self-confidence and Self-awareness - ELG, Managing Feelings and Behaviour - ELG

L Reading and Writing – ELG

Characteristics of Effective Learning:

Active Learning, Creative and Critical Thinking.





Big ENORMOUS Present Role Play Area

Role play encourages children to immerse themselves in a story and this activity should be available before and after watching the performance of The Big ENORMOUS Present.

Begin with a blank space and develop ideas using key words and pictures.

By involving the children in setting up the role play area, and listening to their suggestions they are more likely to engage with the activity.

Photograph the area as it develops and of children playing within the area.

Resources: School uniforms, 'People who help us' – Lollypop stick and high vis jacket for school crossing, broom and keys for caretaker, aprons and serving spoons etc. for lunchtime staff.

The role of the adult is to observe how children engage, noting language, interaction, negotiation, co-operation, sharing, turn-taking and to model emotional coaching and sustained shared thinking to reflect on and develop ideas.

Area of learning:

All seven areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage – ELGs

Characteristics of Effective Learning:

Playing and Exploring, Active Learning, Creative and Critical Thinking.





What's Inside?

The Big ENORMOUS Present actually contains lots of little presents, which leads Polly, Jack and Dot to wonder what could be inside each one. Why not play an imagination game with wrapped 'presents'. Wrap up different shaped and sized objects, e.g. a ball, a banana, a large book, a huge empty box, and pass them around the circle taking turns to guess what could be inside. Choose a range of weights, smells, rattles etc. Encourage both likely and imaginative responses.

Area of learning:

PSE M Shape, Space and Measure - ELG

EAD Being Imaginative – ELG

Characterisitcs of Effective Learning:

Playing and Exploring, Active Learning, Creative and Critical Thinking.

