



## Book of the Week

Hi there!!!

Here's two more favourites for our 'Book of the Week!'

'A Squash and a Squeeze' by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

And

'Supertato' by Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet

I hope you enjoy the stories and have fun with some of these activities.

Enjoy!!!



These are the Prime and Specific Areas of Learning set out in the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) which as teachers we use alongside the Characteristics of Effective Learning to guide us when planning learning activities for our children.

Please also consider the Characteristics of Effective Learning, which I can assure you, you are promoting and encouraging in your day to day life all the time!

### Characteristics of Effective Learning

#### Playing and exploring – engagement

Finding out and exploring  
Playing with what they know  
Being willing to 'have a go'

#### Active learning – motivation

Being involved and concentrating  
Keeping trying  
Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

#### Creating and thinking critically – thinking

Having their own ideas  
Making links  
Choosing ways to do things

## Prime and Specific areas of Learning

<p><b>Physical Development (PD)</b>  Duplo fun:  <a href="https://youtu.be/oQMxPspueZI">https://youtu.be/oQMxPspueZI</a>  50 easy play and learning ideas for children with Lego Duplo bricks! Simple DIY activities for home! Some of the games include; build your own tower, races, Lego football, Hoopla, Noughts and Crosses and many more!  Equipment you may need includes; dice, straws, ping pong ball, small ball, pipe cleaners.  These activities also promote turn taking, making relationships, following rules and boundaries (PSE), as well as offering many opportunities to encourage counting, shape recognition, sorting and comparing (M)</p>	<p><b>Personal, Social, Emotional Development (PSE)</b>  Dough Disco!  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLtw-7Jf06an2kfRMTdYqf21GkMOYT2HaP">https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLtw-7Jf06an2kfRMTdYqf21GkMOYT2HaP</a>  <i>Dough Discos are great opportunities to have fun together! All you need is some playdough and then click on the above link and choose from a variety of fun videos to join in with – I can assure you there will be lots of fun and giggling! Alternatively you could make your own Dough Disco – singing songs such as ‘If You’re Happy and you know it’ – adjusting the words to ‘squeeze your dough’ ‘pinch’ ‘clap’ ‘squash’ etc.</i>  <i>Playdough is easy to make – there are lots of different recipes on the internet. Here is a simple recipe that we often use in pre-school; 2 cups of flour, 1 cup of salt, 1 tablespoon of oil, 1 teaspoon of cream of tartar and 2 cups of water. Mix these all together adding food colouring or flavouring of your choice, then either (grown-ups only) heat the mixture on the stove – stirring continuously, or heat in the microwave a minute at a time, stirring vigorously in between until you have a playdough consistency. This activity also promotes <b>manipulative skills</b> and <b>co-ordination</b> as well as improving general strength in their hands – all good preparation for fantastic mark makers! 😊</i></p>	<p><b>Communication, Language Development (CL)</b>  Listening and attention;  22-36 months – use sock puppets, people or animals when you’re sharing the story with me.  40-60 months – when we are sharing the story, ask me how I think it might end.   Please follow the link below to download children’s ebooks and audio books;  <a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries-ebooks">http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries-ebooks</a></p>
<p><b>Literacy Development (L)</b>  Reading;  22-36 months –when you <b>read</b> me the Story of A Squash and a Squeeze or Supertato (or any other favourite story or rhyme that I know really well) stop at different parts and let me tell you the missing word.  40-60 months – how many objects can I find that <b>start with the sound</b>..... ‘a’, ‘s’ ‘t’ etc</p>	<p><b>Mathematical Development (M)</b>   <b>Things with String</b> is a play-based activity designed for the Early Years, created by Learning Through Landscapes.   There are <b>10 challenges</b> for you to try, all using a 1m length of string;</p>	<p><b>Knowledge and Understanding of the World (UW)</b>   <b>Micro Journey</b> is another exciting and imaginative activity from Learning Through Landscapes, suitable for children of all ages.   Mark out your own miniature route from an ant’s point of view!</p>

Reading /Writing; **Phoneme I Spy** (Alphabet I Spy) challenges children to find objects in their indoor and outdoor environment that **start with each sound**. (See the Alphabet Sounds I Spy Challenge sheet). You could record what objects you find on the Challenge sheet, or alternatively you could draw, paint or photograph the objects you find.

- **Make** a bow and arrow.
- **Thread** leaves together into a garland.
- **Measure** your head and compare it to your height.
- **Make** a friendship bracelet.
- Tie it to a stick and take your stick for **a walk!**
- Make a trail on the floor and **follow your trail** from the viewpoint of an ant...
- Make a cat's cradle – **how many** different **shapes** can you see?
- Use it to **measure** how far you can jump!
- Use it to lift something **heavy**. How can you make it easier?
- **Make** a fishing rod – use a magnet for a hook and paper clips to let you catch your fish.

There's lots of learning going on in these fun activities. For example:

Numeracy: Measurement: experimenting with everyday items as units of measurement to investigate and compare sizes and amounts.

Science: Materials: exploring different materials and selecting materials for different purposes.

Technology: Exploring everyday materials in the creation of pictures, models, concepts

<https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/asset-library/EYFS-ThingsWithString.pdf#page=1>

'A Squash and a Squeeze' - **How many** animals lived in the house at different points in the story? How many eyes did they all have? How many legs? How many tails?

Equipment;

- String, or wool a few meters long,
- Masking tape and a pen to create small flags for landmarks,
- A varied natural landscape such as beneath a hedgerow or a patch of longer grass,
- A camera or tablet and mirrors/magnifying glasses (optional).

Activity;

1. Take a length of string.
2. Lay the string out across a small stretch of varied terrain.
3. Get down low to the ground and examine the 'route' that the string takes from an ant's point of view.
4. Interesting points can be marked with short twigs and masking tape labels.
5. Mirrors or magnifying glasses can give a different perspective and cameras or tablets used to take macro-pictures.

This is an engaging activity to promoting **understanding of the natural world** in which we live. Children are challenged to think about the detail that they see, the panoramic views, the paths, climbs and tunnels that they may be travelling through all from the perspective of an ant.

This activity also encourages children to use their **imaginative skills**, putting themselves in the role of an ant, and imaging what it might be like to be so tiny!

The activity can also support literacy by stimulating the use of **descriptive language** and imaginative place naming. Older children could draw their own map / journey, or even record an audio tour as a speaking and listening extension.

### **Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)**

Exploring media and materials;

**Make your own Squash and a Squeeze House!**

Equipment;

A small box eg shoebox, paint, material, pens pencils, glue a small selection of small boxes or paper or cardboard to make your furniture.

Being Imaginative; enjoy your own **small world role play** stories using the Old Ladies house that you have built with a variety of characters (these could be any small world characters your child loves! Eg dinosaurs, Peppa Pig, farm animals etc. you could also make your own puppet characters! 😊)

**Draw** a picture of the old lady and the animals all squashed in the same house.

*Children develop at their own rate and in their own way!*

We would love to see and hear about any of your activities and creations, either on our face book page - Friends of Longleaze Preschool And Nursery or you could email to [longleazepreschool@outlook.com](mailto:longleazepreschool@outlook.com)

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me on the above address.

Have fun, take care and stay safe!

Emma and Team!



