

Books and Literacy for Everyday Communication

We communicate in many different ways. These picture books try to describe various ways of communicating from different timbres of voices, letter writing, drawing a map and giving directions.

Mr Noisy

The Mr. Men books are a fantastic resource for working through social and emotional issues with children. Mr. Noisy is one of my favourite of the series and is great for teaching an 'indoor voice'. The repeating refrain of '...and then he stopped...and he thought...' provides an excellent opportunity to teach and reinforce stopping and thinking before you act. When I read it aloud in school, I make sure to use my loudest voice to provide a contrast. You will know what noise sensitivity your child has and can adjust accordingly. For some children, using the visual picture of Mr. Noisy will remind them to lower their voice without you having to repeat yourself over and over again. You may need to say indoor or quiet voice with the picture first, then you can move to just using the picture when they make the association between your words and the picture.

Read aloud of the book <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQKCS1h3dcE>

Cartoon of Mr. Noisy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4WLainZ8r8>

Five Minutes Peace

All of you will relate to this book where poor Mrs. Large tries to get five minutes peace from her children by having breakfast in the bath! It is a lovely book that explores the idea of parents trying to get five minutes peace from their children. A gentle way to explore how to ask for time for yourself to work, relax etc.

Read aloud of the book <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKY07N-wLro>

There are lots of printable resources on Twinkl <https://www.twinkl.ie/book/five-minutes-peace>

Colouring in and reading resources <https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/1461/>

World Book day resources <https://www.worldbookday.com/resource/early-years-ideas-five-minutes-peace/>

Floating and sinking experiments in the bath: This links to the everyday science books you may have previously explored. Linking new books to previous knowledge explored is really important when teaching children. The more you can do it the better. Using bath time to engage children in floating and sinking activities is a chance to engage them in fun water play in a calm relaxed environment. This article explains the rationale behind the concept: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/science/continuum/Pages/floatsink.aspx>

<https://happyhooligans.ca/sink-or-float-experiment-preschoolers/>

Who sank the boat? Who sank the boat? This is another book which links to bath time in Five Minutes Peace and may engage your child in some more floating and sinking activities.

Who sank the boat? Book read aloud

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpFWuHSDftQ>

Who sank the boat? Printable resources

<https://www.twinkl.ie/book/who-sank-the-boat>

The Jolly Postman

This is a lovely book about postmen and their delivery of letters. It would be lovely to explore with children at this time, especially when the postman coming might be the only visitor to some houses. You might be able to use the free An Post postcards to link with this book and send a card to grandparents and friends? It teaches how to address an envelope and links to well-known fairy tales and nursery rhymes your child may know already. There is also a Christmas version of the book.

The Jolly Postman read aloud

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeTTqQoJ2Gw>

The Jolly Postman (ASMR reading)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUP7RMzATjU>

The Jolly Christmas Postman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDVev77huno>

The journey of a letter (UK version)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pFd8DLcPIY>

An Post resources for Primary schools

<https://www.anpost.ie/anpost/schoolbag/primary.html>

Making maps is an activity that links to this book really well. Children love drawing maps or talking about how we get to..... If you bring your phone on your walk, you can take photos of landmarks like big trees; coloured house doors; the house where the big dog lives etc. You can discuss your route during the walk and before or after the walk using lots of prediction and I wonder sentences. You can use the pictures on your phone to help a child to predict 'What is coming next? Is it the house with the red gate?' etc. A child with limited verbal skills may be able to point at the display of photos to predict what house or other landmark is around the corner or over the hill. Looking at unusual features or buildings can be a way into creating a story about who lives there.

Map making activity https://cbi-anpost.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/ImagineNation_Farley.pdf

Map making and art

<https://www.artistshelpingchildren.org/makemapstreasuremapscraftsideasdecorationskids.html>

Some lovely map making activities and ideas

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/education/map-skills-elementary-students/>

Rosie's Walk

Rosie's Walk is a lovely simple picture book which tells us all about a hen walking around the farmyard being pursued by a fox. It links nicely with Spring animals, sight words and with making maps of a walk. Your child could draw the map of Rosie's Walk around the farm. It has lots of sight word practise too!

Read aloud of the story

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eifx8qR7U_8

Some nice ideas for teaching literacy with Rosie's Walk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76fP32FWxbl>

Printable ideas for Rosie's walk

<https://www.twinkl.com/resources/story-books/q-s-story-books-story-primary-resources-english-key-stage-1/rosies-walk-story-primary-teaching-resources>

Boardmaker activity for the book

<https://boardmakeronline.com/Activity/1813496>

Communication about Covid 19

We are all talking about 'the virus'. It is part of everyday communication now. Children have lots of questions about it every day. Some of the videos below may help your child to understand what is going on in the world today.

Book about Covid 19

<https://youtu.be/0AhG0ocpM3w>

Story about social distancing

https://youtu.be/DA_SsZFyw0w

Play Mobil explanation of the lockdown

<https://youtu.be/5DI0GKpMN4>

Superhero explains Corona Virus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHnU6LTWh6g>

Song about social distancing and washing your hands

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMdf9FfnT5A>

Story about social distancing and washing your hands

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPrYNOC3Kvw>

Story book on how children can help to fight Covid 19 – this book is available in lots of different languages so you may be able to send it to international children in your school in their mother tongue

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2020-04/My%20Hero%20is%20You%2C%20Storybook%20for%20Children%20on%20COVID-19.pdf>

The link to the book in many different languages

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-reference-group-mental-health-and-psychosocial-support-emergency-settings/my-hero-you>

It is important to reassure children and try to shield them from media speculation about what school may look like. Plan for a return in September with your child. Your child's school will be in contact with you in advance of returning to school to advise you what that return will look like. Children may have worries and anxieties around a return to normality and your reassurance will be crucial in helping them to understand and make sense of all the 'new normal' rules and regulations and recommendations as we move through the stages.

If we have to wear masks, a social story may help children to understand this.

We wear masks

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnP-uMn6q_U