

Spring Animal Storybooks

A resource for parents/teachers within the 'Spring' theme for learning.

This resource is mostly suitable, to support primary school students to engage in learning about 'Spring' and spring animals through storybooks. The books all have a You Tube link for an audio version of the story as well as different resources and ideas to expand on learning opportunities for students.

Books about spring animals

Book title 1: The Tale of Peter Rabbit, Beatrix Potter

Link to read aloud video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_LeUSA-qlg

Description: A classic story that follows the mischievous young Peter Rabbit as he gets into and is chased around Mr McGregor's garden. Peter Rabbit is also a cartoon on Netflix.

Learning Opportunities: There are lots of resources to support learning in relation to The Tale of Peter Rabbit such as a visual maze, creating your own story and age specific comprehension activities such as mind maps.

- <https://www.peterrabbit.com/athome/>
- <https://www.puffinschools.co.uk/resources/activity-ideas-peter-rabbit-maze/>

Book title 2: Quackenstein hatches a family, Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen

Link to read aloud video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoiS5ZFtqVg&list=PLVkrNo2M8Jkps05VkXR32GK8nIBBEygCa&index=58>

Description: This has quite sophisticated language but great voices and animations – it's a modern take on the Ugly Duckling. It's a lovely story about how we can love things and people that are different from each other.

Learning Opportunities: Expand this learning through song.

- 5 Little Ducks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZw9veQ76fo>

Book title 3: Oi Frog!, Kes Gray

Link to read aloud video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2da5yu6rpdg> or there is a lovely version here on Cbeebies, read by Liz Carr. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGskUQ8hyos>

Description: Hilarious rhyming book. All the books in this series are great for phonological awareness and students love them, especially when they find out what dogs sit on!

Learning Opportunities:

- The world book day website has lots of free to download activities based on Oi Frog! <https://www.worldbookday.com/resource/early-years-ideas-oi-frog/>
- Some children may be able to make their own version or you could create a class version on a live Zoom together. Here is a video of a child reading his own version of Oi Frog! Called Oi Duck! For inspiration https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqIMXvge_Vo

Book title 4: Rosie's Walk, Pat Hutchins

Link to read aloud video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3Qr3Ec3Mbc>

Description: Lovely book about a hen taking a walk around a farmyard. It's a great book to help teach and reinforce prepositions. You can use it as a narrated mime to help children explore these abstract concepts.

Learning Opportunities:

- Here are some free downloads to support language and literacy
<https://www.twinkl.com/resources/early-years-story-books/q-s-story-books-story-primary-resources-communication-and-language-and-literacy-early-years/early-years-rosies-walk-story-primary-teaching-resources>
- This story is a great framework to use to describe your own or your students walk. You could use Photostory (free app to download from Microsoft) where students can put in photos of their own walk with a simple narrative (written and/or oral) underneath. This is a simple mapping and oral language activity linked to SESE and Primary Language Curriculum.
- For mapping ideas please follow this link <https://letstalkscience.ca/educational-resources/lessons/rosies-walk>
- For songs in relation to the farmyard see Old MacDonald had a farm (song):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpnUYVezBVw>

Book title 5: A Squash and a Squeeze, Julia Donaldson

Link to read aloud video: <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialGruffalo/videos/julia-donaldson-and-friends-a-squash-and-a-squeeze/3134033283326152/>

Description: A Squash and a Squeeze is a funny picture book about farm animals.

Learning Opportunities: Julia Donaldson has a Facebook page where she reads her books, performs songs and poems she has written and based on her book.

Further resources to support learning about spring animals

Make a virtual pond: <https://pbskids.org/elinor/games/elinor-pond-life> Close captioning is available and the words are read aloud, although you can turn both these features off.

Frog spawn and tadpoles in real life: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgCL3JenMCs> two little boys show us frog spawn and tadpoles in real life. Remember, it is illegal to remove frog spawn from the water (unless you are a teacher as frog spawn is so delicate) so just remember where you saw it and visit it again over time. Slow moving rivers in towns and cities may have frogspawn in sheltered pools - you don't just see it in the country.

Cartoon of the Frog Prince: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RBqu4B2-po> This is quite faithful to the original story.

Life cycle of the frog: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJOSoJNeu54> lovely song and cartoon about the life cycle of the frog from Cocomelon. Life cycles and learning about animals are part of the SESE curriculum

Colour mixing: If parents have paint at home (or markers; crayons; food colouring or chalk) children can engage in colour mixing to create new colours e.g. blue + yellow = green; red + yellow = orange etc.). Here are some books to support learning around colour mixing:

- 'Little Blue and Little Yellow' is a book you could link this to Rosie's Walk mapping activities as well as to mixing colours. Here is the read aloud version <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91ZmDCXlxA>
- 'Mixed' is another great picture book to support colour mixing. Here is the read aloud version <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SlbGioTNs4M>
- 'Mouse Paint' which may link to the art activity. Here is the read aloud version <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjohJiyvA0Q>

Egg box mouse art: www.darrellwakelam.com

Lots of ideas (50+) on this website based on common household objects. Full instructions can be found on the artist's website. (Used with the permission of the artist)



Make a rainbow with food colouring or paint: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHMTvko29KQ>