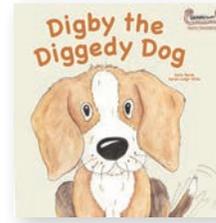


# Digby the Diggedy Dog



We hope you and your child enjoy these activities and resources.

They're designed to boost your child's speech and language development and early phonics skills.

Sound play helps children develop an awareness of the building blocks of words - rhyme, syllables and individual speech sounds. It gives children the foundation skills for phonics.

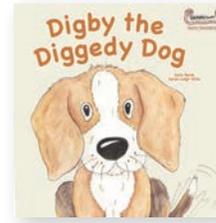
We include a lolly stick puppet, colouring sheet and you can also download an MP3 audiobook version - ideas on how to get the most out of these resources are also included.

*Have fun and enjoy learning together!*

## Contents

- Let's read the story together
- Dig dig diggedy dig
- Rhyme time - Wiggly, wiggly worm
- Treasure dig
- Digby's special 'g' words
- Rhyme time - 5 little speckled frogs
- Resources
  
- Lolly stick puppets
- Colouring sheet
  
- MP3 audiobook also available

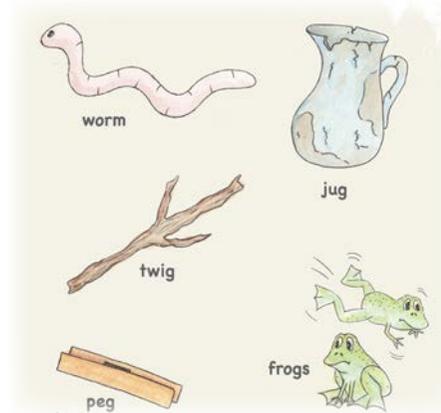
## Let's read together



Whenever you read with your child try and find somewhere comfortable to sit so you can easily look at the book together.

- Start with the cover and point to the words as you read the title *Digby the Diggedy Dog*.

- As you look at the 'Some things to look out for ...' pages talk about the pictures, point at and name the ones that your child doesn't know.

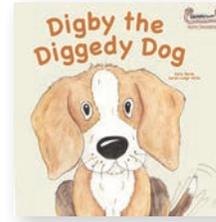


- As you talk about what you can see your child may join in: 'Oh look, .... I can see a wiggly ...'
- 'Now let's listen to the story' – as you read the story give your child plenty of time to look at the pictures.

## Again and again!

- Children like to hear the same story again and again and it helps them learn new words.
- Your child will enjoy talking with you about the story.
- You don't need to read the whole book each time (though your child may want you to!). You can focus on, and talk about, 1 or 2 pages.
- Pause at the end of repetitive or predictable phrases so your child has the opportunity to complete them: 'wig wag wiggledy ... ...'
- Before you turn the page can your child remember what Digby does next ...?

## Dig dig diggedy dig



1. Can you and your child pretend to be Digby the Diggedy Dog and:
  - pretend to dig - dig dig diggedy dig
  - or pretend to have a tail and wag your tail - wig wag wiggledy wag
2. Can you be a wiggledy worm or a wriggly wiggly centipede and go:
  - wriggle wiggle wriggledy wriggle
3. Can you and your child clap the beats (syllables) in the words:
  - dig (1)
  - Dig-by (2)
  - wig wag (2)
  - Dig-ge-dy (3)
  - dig dig dig-ge-dy dig (1-1-3-1)



Stomping the beats is fun too!

## Rhyme time!

Under a stone where the  
earth was firm  
I found a wiggly, wriggly  
worm.

(use your forefinger for worm and  
cover with other hand)

'Good morning', I said.  
'How are you today?'

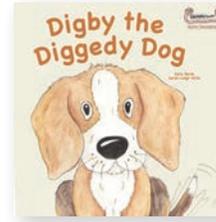
(uncover your forefinger)

But the wiggly worm just  
wiggled away

(wiggle your forefinger up your  
other arm)

And I'm as still as I can be!

## Treasure dig



1. Bury some favourite toys in sand, mud or a pile of leaves and twigs and let your child dig for treasure - just like Digby the diggedy dog. *Dig dig diggedy dig!*
2. *Or take it in turns to dig - 'It's your turn ... and now it's my turn'.*
3. Can your child name the pieces of treasure?
4. You could also select items that begin with a 'd' sound - dog, dinosaur, digger etc.
5. Can they hear the 'd' sounds in '*dig dig diggedy dig*'?
6. Can they hear the 'd' sound at the beginning of the treasure words? - remind them that *Digby* and *dig* both start with 'd'.
7. You could extend this activity by adding items ending in Digby's special 'g' sound - jug, frog, peg, pig etc.

## Treasure hunt

Search for 'treasure' in your garden or the park. Take a small container or bag to put the treasure in.

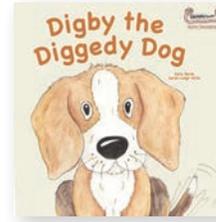
You could hunt for:

Leaves

- Snail shells
- Twigs
- Bark
- Feather
- Pebbles
- Fallen petals

Compare your treasure - what's the same or different? Talk about the different textures - are they hard or soft? Where did it come from?

## Digby's special 'g' words



1. The sound target for *Digby the Diggedy Dog* is 'g'.
2. Most children will be saying it consistently by 4 years.
3. Younger children will often use a 'd' sound instead of 'g' as in 'dod' instead of 'dog' and 'wid wad' instead of 'wig wag'.
4. Some young children may say 'gog' instead of 'dog' and again this can be part of normal speech development.
5. If they say the wrong sound don't correct them and ask them to say it again. Just say the word for them to hear - 'Yes, Digby's a dog'.
6. Listening to *Digby the Diggedy Dog* gives the children lots of opportunities to both hear and practise saying words with 'g'.



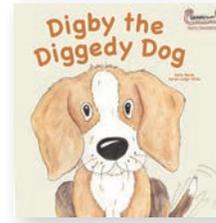
## Rhyme time!

Five little speckled frogs  
Sat on a speckled log  
Eating some most delicious  
bugs  
Yum, yum!  
One jumped into the pool  
Where it was nice and cool  
Then there were four  
speckled frogs.  
Glug, glug!

*Repeat the verse with one less  
frog each time until:*

One little speckled frog....  
Then there were no  
speckled frogs.  
Glug glug!

## Resources



### Lolly stick puppets

These can be enjoyed in many different ways:

- to support an activity
- to retell the story or create a new story

### Colouring sheet

- as a stand alone activity
- as a shared activity - take it in turns to tell each other what to colour

### MP3 audiobook

- Children enjoy listening to stories again and again so a digital audiobook can be very useful
- The read through version is good to listen to with or without the book.
- The read along version is best used with the book and your child may enjoy being independent and able to turn the pages at the right time.



## Retelling the story

- Lolly stick puppets make retelling the story, or creating a new one, much more fun!
- By 3 years children can typically answer 'who', 'what' and 'where' questions.
- Then by 4 years they will be able to tell you about how the characters feel about what's happening and 'why' something has happened.

Cut out Digby the Diggedy Dog... *but be careful!*



Cut out the Frogs... *but be careful!*



