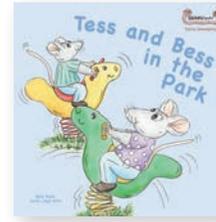


Tess and Bess in the Park



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 lolly stick puppets, a 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!

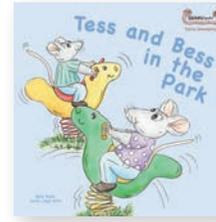
Contents

- Let's read the story together
- A trip to the park
- Rhyme time - Teddy plays on the swing
- Minibeast hunt
- I spy a spider - 's' blends
- Rhyme time - Incy wincy spider

- Resources
- Lolly stick puppets
- Colouring sheet

- MP3 audiobook also available

Let's read together



Find somewhere cosy to sit with your child so you can easily look at the book together.

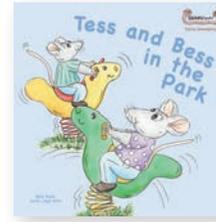
- Start with the cover and point to the words as you read the title *Tess and Bess in the Park*.
- As you look at the 'Some things to look out for...' pages talk about the pictures, point at and name the ones that your child doesn't know.
- As you talk about what you can see your child may join in: 'Oh look, I can see a scrambling net and ...'
- '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: 'Scoot scoot, hoot ...'
- Before you turn the page does your child remember what's black and scary ...?

A trip to the park



A trip to the park or a playground can provide lots of opportunities for talking and developing language.

1. Talk about what you can see - the swings, slides, springy things etc.
2. Comment on what your child's doing:
 - 'You're **climbing** the slide ... **climbing up to the top** ... (count the steps) 1 2 3 4 ... and **WHEE sliding down** again ... **down to the bottom**'
 - 'You're **swinging** ... **swinging backwards** and **forwards** ... **swinging high** and **low** ...'
 -
3. Introduce concepts of position - 'Stand **next to** the swing ... run **behind** the slide ... scoot **between** the trees ...'
4. Introduce contrasting speeds: 'Walk **slowly** ... run **fast** ...'

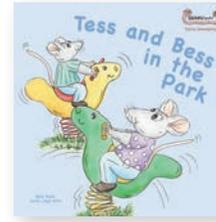
Teddy plays on the swing

Teddy plays on the swing
Teddy plays on the slide
Teddy plays on the swing
Teddy plays on the slide

And he goes
Tick-tock
Forwards and back
Round and round he goes
Tick-tock
Forwards and back
Round and round he goes

And he goes
Tick-tock
Forwards and back
Round and round he goes
Tick-tock
Forwards and back
Round and round he goes

I spy a spider - 's' blends



The story *Tess and Bess in the Park* is full of 's' blend words.

Tess and Bess scoot, swing, slide, spin, spring and scramble. They go on a minibeast hunt and spy a:

- *spotty ladybird*
- *spinning spider*
- *small snail*
- *sleepy slow worm*
- *slimy slug*
- *scary stag beetle*



As part of normal speech development many young children will miss the 's' sound off the word when they say it, for example '*pider*'.

Sharing this story and talking about it gives children lots of opportunities to hear and practise saying these words.

Incy wincy spider

Incy wincy spider
climbed up the water
spout.

Make spider leg fingers with both hands and climb up the spout.

Down came the rain
and washed the
spider out.

Raise your hands above your head then 'sprinkle' your fingers down like rain.

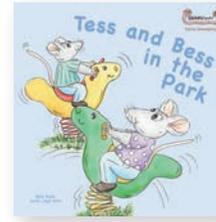
Out came the sun and
dried up all the rain.

Make a big sunshine circle with your arms.

And incy wincy
spider climbed up
the spout again.

Make your climbing fingers again.

Minibeast Hunt



An outdoor minibeast hunt is a lovely outdoor activity that gives you lots of talk about.

You don't need any special equipment but a magnifying glass is great for having a close look. A little bug box or clear container is useful for holding the minibeasts while you have a closer look.

- Hunt under stones and logs, peer into bark and deadwood - can you see any beetles or spiders?
- Look closely at leaves for ladybirds and caterpillars.
- Can you spot any snails or slugs?



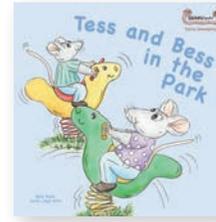
Encourage your child to name and talk about the minibeasts as they find them.

Talk about their features: What colours are they? How many legs do they have? Do they have a hard shell? Where do they live?

Lolly stick puppets

- You or your child could hide the lolly stick puppet minibeasts around the house or garden.
- You can give clues: look in the bucket or on the swing.
- You could also hide them in a pile of shredded paper in a box, or outside in a mound of twigs and leaves.

Resources



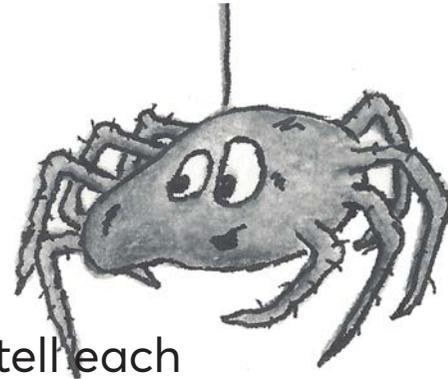
Lolly stick puppets

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 the Spiders... *but be careful!*

