

peep

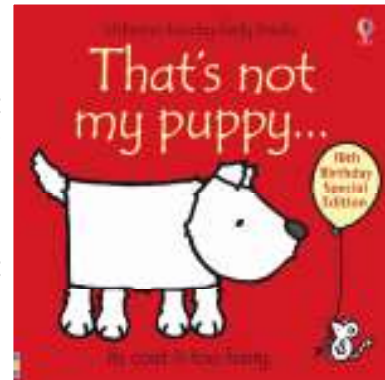
Book Reviews



Volume 1

That's not my puppy ISBN: 978 1 4095 0641 6
Usborne Hardback £5.99
Words by Fiona Watt/illustrations by Rachel Wells

We were given a 10th birthday special edition of this old favourite to try out and it was immediately clear that age had not diminished its magic. A practitioner tried it out one-to-one with babies in a PEEP group and discovered the babies were drawn to the bright pictures and took great pleasure in touching and exploring the different textures on each page. Another practitioner had just finished the topic of Familiar sights, sounds and smells and so this book fitted in well with that work. It caused a miniature riot as the youngsters all wanted to hold and feel the book, which explains on each page why certain puppies are not suitable until the last page where the puppy with the 'squashy' nose gets approval. However, the book proved most popular with a one-year-old child with Down's Syndrome. It was the perfect size for him to hold and he spent five minutes examining every aspect on his own. His favourite page was the puppy with the shaggy ears. The power and draw of this book was beautifully demonstrated by this little boy. A handy book to use with 'Babies making choices'.



Caterpillar to Butterfly and Little Eggs Baby Birds ISBN: 978 1 4063 1381 9
Walker Books Hardback £4.99 each
By Frances Barry

These two books are called 'fold out and find out' as each page folds out to make a shape telling either the life cycle of a caterpillar to a butterfly or watching two birds building a nest and producing six babies. The books are also unusual as they are seven-sided in shape. In our drop-in in a community shopping centre, Room to Play, creative staff made a template of the pages of *Caterpillar to Butterfly* and helped visiting children to make their own books in the same shape. It was a popular activity for children and adults to share and no staples were needed as the pages fold together. A three-year-old boy shared the *Baby Bird* book with his mum and a practitioner in a group setting and loved the style and pictures. His mother commented that it didn't feel like a book because of its design and that she would love to share it with her other children as it was beautifully illustrated and was a great topic to talk about. The same book also found its way to a clinic visit and was enjoyed by a one-year-old and his mother. While the child was fascinated as the practitioner turned the pages, the mother mentioned that she wouldn't be keen for her son to turn them as he might tear the delicate pages.



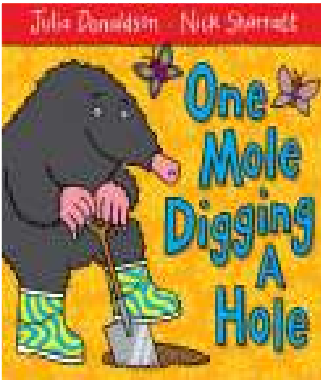
One mole digging a hole

ISBN: 978 1 4050 8945 6

Macmillan Hardback £10.99

Words by Julia Donaldson/illustrated by Nick Sharratt

This book proved to be a big hit with children of a variety of ages, with parents/carers and with practitioners who used it in groups and one-to-one and thought it was ideal for both. The bright pictures grabbed attention immediately and adults loved the fact that the pictures gave them so much to talk about with the children. The big, bold pictures are enhanced by thoughtful rhyming text. Any four-year-old into playing with language would love this book and it is a good session book when exploring 'Sharing books with children'. This could be useful when talking about counting, rhyme and rhythm, being healthy and making marks, e.g. rakes on soil and digging a hole, plus it will go with the 'Fox in a box' song. It's a good investment for any children's centre.



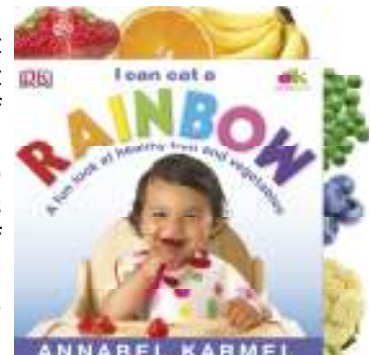
I can eat a rainbow

ISBN: 978 1 40533 906 3

DK Hardback £4.99

By Annabel Karmel

The book is by well known children's food expert, Annabel Karmel, and sets out to help children and adults enjoy themselves while learning about healthy fruit and vegetables. One practitioner used this book in a twos group while singing 'Bouncing up and down in my little red/orange/green/yellow tractor' and it fitted the activity perfectly. Every child wanted to touch the bright illustrations of food in all colours of the rainbow, including pictures of a dog in the shape of a banana and an elephant as a red cabbage, aubergine and beetroot. The impact of the book on adults was also evident, with parents/carers asking where they could buy it as it was fun but also contained nutrition notes and advice. The idea of offering choice also came up, i.e. do you want a raspberry or an apple? During a home programme visit, a one-year-old boy was thrilled to point to all the animal characters in the shape of fruit and vegetables while his mother was inspired by the rainbow choice on offer and was able to draw up a shopping list of what she wanted to buy that week from this book.



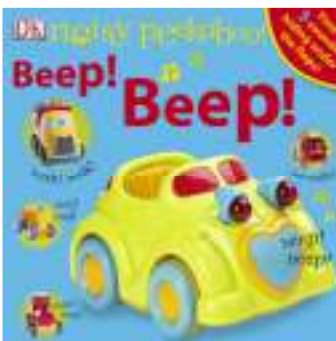
Beep! Beep!

ISBN: 978 1 40533 701 4

DK Hardback £8.99

Words by Dawn Sirett/ designed by Rachael Parfitt

Although this noisy peek-a-boo, flap book shows lots of babies in action, it is clear that it can also be of interest to older children within early years. Pages are filled with glowing, colourful pictures and there are heaps of flaps to find various vehicles. If you lift up one particular flap on each spread, the noise of the vehicle sounds out. Watch out, though, as the sound is loud! Children loved this and parents commented that they preferred the flap to a button to press. It would make a really good session book Amazing Noises with ones or in *Learning Together* with ones.



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Baby Faces

ISBN: 978 0 230 70941 6

Campbell Books Hardback £6.99

By Zita Newcombe

The big, bright bold faces of babies on each page proved attractive to some of the children in two different baby groups. In one group, a practitioner used it successfully as a session book to demonstrate ORIM. Parents were given the book to share one-to-one and while all enjoyed looking at the faces and reading the text, the moveable levers proved a challenge. Adults quickly took over as the children struggled and commented that they felt the levers were too difficult for little hands to use and the movement too small to really grab attention. This could be a useful text when talking about a sense of order in *LT* with ones.



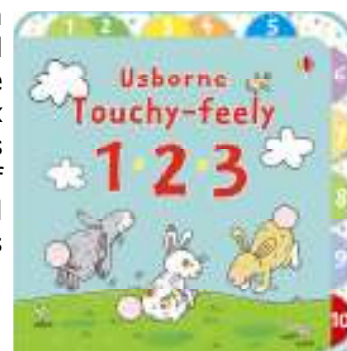
Touchy Feely 1, 2, 3

ISBN: 978 07460 89163

Usborne Hardback £9.99

Illustrated by Cecilia Johansson

There is plenty for child and adult to explore in this touchy-feely texture book with touch and count holes to help children develop counting and number recognition skills. Practitioners felt the book was best shared one-to-one rather than in a group and a three-year-old who explored the volume during a clinic visit could follow the counting, feel the different textures and name some of the animals, although it was felt that it would have been better not to mix wild and domestic animals. All children particularly liked the numbers in the cut-out circles. Parents were also impressed at the sturdiness of the book as it would take lots of wear and tear from interested children. A useful book when exploring 'Numbers numbers everywhere' with families with three-year-olds.



All Fall Down/Clap Hands/Tickle Tickle/Say Goodnight

Walker Books Hardback £3.99

By Helen Oxenbury

These well-sized, beautifully illustrated books proved a great hit in a number of PEEP groups and children and adults loved trying to following some of the simple actions. The images can be seen easily in a group and as there is minimal text, it gives a great opportunity to discuss the pictures. Older siblings also took the opportunity to join in with the fun. A mother of a two-year-old shared *Say Goodnight* during a clinic visit and extended the book by singing a lullaby to her infant at the end. One mother commented that the books would be durable as they are wipe clean. *Tickle Tickle* and *Say Goodnight* look helpful texts when talking about numbers. There is also a wonderful vibrant sense of movement across the series – useful support for movement problems in ones.



ISBN NO'S: 978 1 4063 1949 1, 978 1 4063 1935 4,
978 1 4063 1947 7 and 978 1 4063 1948 4



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