

# Individual Activity Lesson Plan

**Date:** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

**Activity Title:** The Gruffalo Shadow Theatre

**Learning Intention:** To gradually be able to engage in pretend play.

**Links to EYFS:** Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Self-Confidence and Self-Awareness: 16-26 months

**Equipment:**

- Cardboard (cereal box, food packaging, etc), scissors (for adult use), blank/black paper, ruler, lollipop sticks, glue stick/Sellotape, torch, lamp or a flashlight and story characters (printed or hand drawn).
- [The Gruffalo](#)

**Activity Overview:**

The children will create their own shadow theatre and engage in role play using characters from the story.

**Key vocabulary:**

Shadow theatre, character, mouse, fox, snake, owl and Gruffalo, light, shadow, role play, walking, trees, hide, find, look, forest, see, small, big, sounds.

## ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION (including key question)

**Introduction:**

- Begin by reading or watching the *The Gruffalo* together with your child and pausing at key moments. Encourage the use of language by emphasising key vocabulary, talking and describing the characters. For example, “The Gruffalo is big, and the mouse is small.” “Where is the mouse going?” “What animals can you see?” “Do you see the Gruffalo? Is he hiding?”
- Once you have finished looking/watching the story, explain to your child that you are going to make a shadow theatre. Show your child an image of the theatre.

**Main Activity:**

- Gather all the resources/equipment together, print or draw out The Gruffalo characters and cut around each picture and support your child in sticking them onto a lollipop stick (you can also use a pencil or similar for this).
- For the next steps, encourage your child to help you wherever they can by sticking, holding and passing things to you.
- Take apart a cereal box so it lies flat. On the two largest rectangles of the box measure about 1.5cm in from each side and cut them out, being careful not to cut through the edges.
- Tape the box back together so the outside of the cereal box becomes the inside.
- Now take a piece of white A4 paper and trim it to fit the inside of the box, using the black paper (you could also use the discarded pieces of cereal box), you can cut some trees, grass, etc. and stick them on to the inner side of the white paper.
- After that, you can set up a lamp/flashlight or a torch behind the theatre and enjoy the role play with your child using the characters to make your own story.
- Model role play, using key vocabulary/phrases from the story. For example, “A Gruffalo? What’s a Gruffalo? Why didn’t you know...” as it emerges in the scene.



**Activity review:**

To end on a high note, talk to your child about their favourite character/role and why they liked it. Praise them for their efforts in joining in with role play using single words/sounds and beginning to put two words together. For example, “I like the way you said grrrhhh when you were holding the Gruffalo.”

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### Additional ways to support your child:

If you can, ask another family member to join the theatre to support your child's understanding of the interactions they have with you.

### Extension:

Try creating your own simple story together. Perhaps the animals want to go to the shop to get some food for a picnic together!



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