

Squish!

by Tim Bugbird, illustrated by Ian Worrall-Dutton

Little Cub has invited all his friends to join him in his new tent. But will they all fit? Find out in this adorably squishy book for young children.

This engaging early years story introduces themes of friendship, sharing, problem-solving, and kindness through simple storytelling and charming illustrations.

Preparation

- Read through the story so you are familiar with it – it will also enable you to practice the best way to hold the book so the children can see the pictures, and you can still see the words.
- Decide on any rhymes you want to include.
- Prepare any follow up activities you want to do – you can find activity sheets on the BookTrust website.

Reading the story

Here are some questions/activities you could ask to engage children with the story. This could be as you read the story or you could come back to one or two pages and do this afterwards.

- **Page 4.** What type of biscuit do you think Little Cub has? What is your favourite biscuit?
- **Page 20.** (this question would need to be asked on the first reading) – what do you think Little Cub is going to do?



Bookstart Storytime Session plan



Rhymes

There are rhymes available on BookTrust's website for this story, here are some more to try:

Polly Put the Kettle On

Polly put the kettle on, (mime putting the kettle on a stove)
Polly put the kettle on,
Polly put the kettle on,
We'll all have tea. (mime drinking tea)
Sukey take it off again, (mime taking the kettle off a stove)
Sukey take it off again,
Sukey take it off again,
They've all gone away (wave)

Jelly on a Plate

Jelly on a plate, (mime holding a plate)
Jelly on a plate,
Wobble wobble, (wobble around)
Wobble wobble,
Jelly on a plate.
Biscuits in a tin (mime holding a biscuit tin)
Biscuits in a tin
Shake them up (mime shaking the tin)
Shake them down
Biscuits in a tin
Pancake in a pan, (mime holding a frying pan)
Pancake in a pan,
Flip it over, (mime flipping pancakes)
Flip it over,
Pancake in a pan.
Noodles on a fork, (mime holding a fork)
Noodles on a fork,
Twirly whirly, (mime twirling a fork)
Twirly whirly,
Noodles on a fork



Bookstart Storytime Session plan



Activities

The following activity sheets are available on the BookTrust website.

- Colouring sheet (mouse with tea and biscuits)
- Activity Sheet 1 (design your own biscuits)
- Activity Sheet 2 (match the animal to their biscuit)
- Activity Sheet 3 (animal masks)

Other activity ideas include:

- Sequencing based on the size of animals in real life e.g. by height a mouse, a tiger, an elephant a giraffe
- Teddy Bears picnic
- Make their own reading den when they get home
- Use a bag and any animal soft toys you have to get the children to see how many toys they can fit in the bag before it's full

End of session

- Hand out sticker books to any family who doesn't have one
- Give the relevant sticker
- Encourage the family to look at the rhyme for this week that's in the booklet
- Suggest one or two follow up activities from the list that you haven't used

