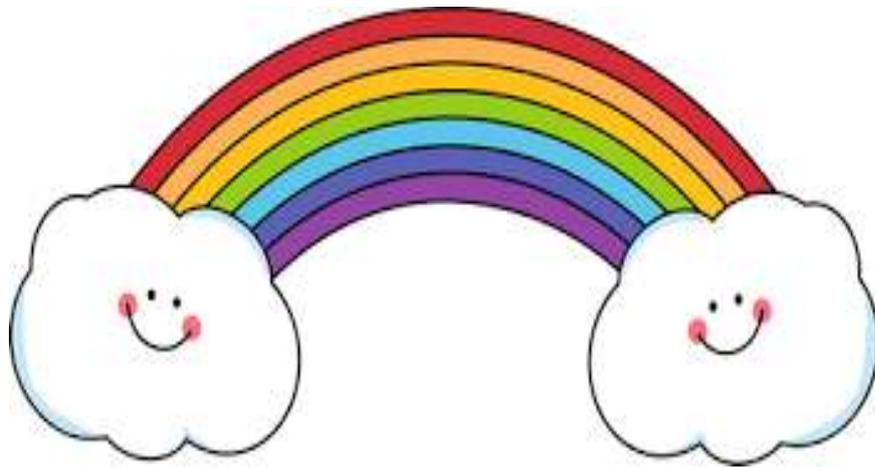


'The Rainy Day'



How does this story fit with the National Curriculum?

I have worked with various Children's Centres, nurseries and playgroups recently and have witnessed the excellent work they are involved with in supporting children and families in their care. Child care providers have the challenging task of finding different ways to fulfil the criteria of the EYFS framework to enable children in their care to have the best support in terms of welfare and development.

I have designed this performance of 'The Rainy Day' so that it satisfies many of the requirements of the EYFS framework. In addition I hope it will encourage a love of stories, reading books and stimulating children's imagination long after the performance has finished.

This story has many sensory elements to engage children and encourage attentive listening including different characters, smells, items the children can touch, singing, action songs, visual stimuli and audience interaction.

Children are encouraged to take on a role in this performance to help me tell the story either by playing the part of the child in the story, assisting with the snail race, helping the birds hunt for worms (for smaller children these parts can be substituted with a cuddly toy) or by singing and doing an action song. Some of these experiences will be things they are familiar with others will be new.

Volunteering to act out a role in a performance is likely to be a new experience for many of the children. I hope it will build their self-awareness and confidence for speaking and acting in front of their friends, carers and parents. This would also be a great opportunity for observing how the children adapt their behavior to this new experience and whether they are able to follow instructions.

I think the children will be really proud of their achievements in helping me tell the story. I have found this is particularly the case with children who are quite nervous of joining in. For these children it is especially rewarding when they take part and are so proud of themselves for achieving their goal, something they may not have thought they could achieve.

I have heard from parents that following my previous performances children often go home and act out what they have seen especially if provided with costumes or puppets. Obviously at home they can really experiment with the roles as there is no right or wrong and the story can go where they want it to go! This performance should really stimulate their imaginations.

In this performance there are a number of experiments including making a cloud in a bottle, making paper flowers open using water and making a rainbow using food dye in tubes and adding water. These experiments are fantastic for giving children a flavour of science in a way where it appears to be magic. It will encourage them to ask 'how'

and 'why' questions about what they have seen in the story. The children and parents will have the opportunity to try the paper flowers experiment at home. They can answer some of these questions together using the 'experiment cards' I will give out at the end of the performance. The cards have all the equipment required, easy to follow instructions and a simple explanation of why it works.

Not only does this encourage learning at home, it is an activity that can be done together and could inspire some future young scientists and encourage them to ask questions about why things around them work.

The idea behind the story is to inspire the children to go out and explore their own environment just like the child in the story. The children are encouraged to look for changes that happen to this environment when it rains and ask questions. What happens to the snails, worms and flowers in their gardens when it rains? Can they see a rainbow? What colours can they see in the rainbow? This story could be the inspiration for some great 'Rainy Day' themed art.

I have designed the performance to be multi-sensory and constantly changing with lots of different activities. Some activities will require either verbal or physical participation from the children. I am confident that this rapidly moving format will help children to focus their attention on the performance for the whole session and provide lots for them to talk about.