



More Activities

Contributed by Anne Pitcher

Here are a few ideas on the activities you could do after the telling:

Create your own story

Create your own story, substituting existing characters with what you have available – puppets/soft toys or puppets you've made to re-tell the two stories, providing a different set of friends and a different set of actions for The Nasty Beastie. In The Rattle you can have different characters that are frightened by the rattle snake and a new character who breaks the rattle.

The Rattle (*Theme: My family*)

Before the storytelling ask the children to bring photos of themselves and their parents/grandparents at different ages. Have a display table/basket with a toy car, bus, train, plane (or photos of) to stimulate talk about how they travel to see family.

Ask parents or grandparents or great-grandparents to bring objects which come from their childhood – doll, toy car, skipping ropes or household objects such as LPs, clothes and shoes (from the hippy era maybe), stone piggy. Ask children to guess whose parent/grandparent brought them and how old they are. If a family is contributing something but they are not coming then perhaps ask for a short comment to go with these objects. Sing some songs that grandparents would have been familiar with such as Coulter's Candy, Jeely Piece song, Skye Boat Song, Donald where's your trousers?

The Nasty Beastie (*Themes: All about me*)

Invite parents or grandparents and ask them to bring something that tells the story of what it was like when they were wee babies: photos, any toys they had as children or objects that show what they had learned to do or what they played with as a child such as knitting needles, a skipping rope (find out if they remember any skipping rhymes), marbles, balls (if small balls ask if they remember any ball rhymes, if men ask about playing football) and many others.

Action songs

In and out the Scottish bluebells or ***Dusky bluebells*** is a circle song Granny and Grandpa would have sung when they were children. Stand in a circle, holding hands and raise your arms to make a series of arches. One person is IT and skips in and out of the arches. At the same time, the people in the circle sing:

In and out the dusty bluebells
In and out the dusty bluebells
In and out the dusty bluebells
I am your master

Then the person who is IT stops behind someone and taps them on their shoulders while the circle sings:

Tipper-iper-tapper on her shoulder
Tipper-iper-tapper on her shoulder
Tipper-iper-tapper on her shoulder
I am your master

Whoever was been tapped on the shoulder, goes behind IT and holds onto their waist. They both then skip in and out of the arches together while the circle sings. The chain gets longer and longer until there are not enough people to form the circle.

I sent a letter to my love or ***Drop Handkerchief*** or ***I wrote a letter***. You can sit or stand in your circle. One person is IT and stands outside the circle, skipping around it holding the letter/hanky while the circle sings:

I sent a letter to my love
And on the way I dropped it
One of you picked it up
and put it your pocket.

The circle should carry on singing this rhyme until IT drops the letter behind one of the people in the circle. That person and IT then have to race around the circle back to that place (the person who was in the circle goes in the opposite direction to IT). The last one back to the open place in the circle is IT the next time.