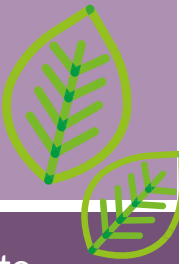




WHIMSICAL PLAY WITH AMY

By. Amy Jayne Ramsey



Hello and welcome to Whimsical Play with Amy. The natural curiosities and wonders from children in the early years foundation stage are what make each day so magical.

If you would like to learn more about Whimsical Play please follow me.

www.whimsicalplay.com
Instagram: [whimsical.play](https://www.instagram.com/whimsical.play)



Mud Kitchen Play

Bring the book to life

Encourage children to fall in love with literacy through synthetic approaches to play and exploration. When children fall in love with literature, they enjoy retelling and recreating the story throughout the provision. You can sprinkle books and literacy throughout your setting and notice how the children engage with new language, vocabulary, familiar characters and story sequence.

At the mud kitchen we created a 'Gruffalo Crumble' provocation, inspired by the story *The Gruffalo's Child* by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. We made lists together and then found trinkets and objects which were unique to this story for the children to explore.

Outdoor play is just as important as indoor play. Fresh air, plenty of space and mud kitchens to get messy in and have heaps of fun are essential for children's emotional, social and personal wellbeing.



How to bring the book to life at the mud kitchen



A few tips and tricks

- Read the book with the children and have open ended discussions based on their interests and ideas.
- Notice the characters in the story.
- Notice the illustrations, words and colours.
- Pick out any themes which run through the book.
- Spot rhyming words, new vocabulary and enriching language.
- Gather real and authentic items for play, based on the story.
- Observe and notice how the children engage with the book through sensory play.

Loose Parts & Items

A few tips and tricks

or the Gruffalo Crumble Mud Kitchen we used a variety of pots, pans and containers. We found real life kitchen items such as a rolling pin, spoons and a teapot for the children to explore. We added tiny loose parts and trinkets for counting, sorting and arranging. Items such as foam snowflakes, holly leaves, bells, spangle pipe cleaners, fresh oranges and sprinkles. We also added the story book, so the children could revisit the story and explore language which can spark some new ideas in their creativity. Where possible, try and print the characters from the book and add them to your provocation, this way children can use them as they play and practice new language.



"Mix, Mix, Mix"
Maverick - 3 years

"Holly
Cake"
Jassie
- 3 years



Collecting Ingredients for Fun!

A You can add corn starch, chocolate powder, crunchy cornflakes, fresh cranberries and rainbow sprinkles to different containers. The children will naturally scoop, mix and pour these into different pots and bowls creating their unique recipes and creations. The invitation to play sparks natural curiosity and that is when the magic occurs. Children can also collect natural items from outside in the garden to add to their play and creations, such as sticks, leaves, petals and pinecones.

"Wow, red cranberry"
Naphak - 3 years



Unique Creations

Experience creativity together.

We used cranberry juice containers which we filled with water and added a few drops of red food colouring. The children enjoy twisting the lids off the bottles, exploring weight and capacity as they lift and pour the containers and then refill them with other items. Make sure you add plenty of opportunities for children to work on their fine motor skills.

You can also provide access to grabbers for lifting and sorting, spoons for scooping and stirring and children can work on their 1:1 correspondence skills by collecting small items they find.

As children play they will retell parts of the story, discuss the characters and wonderful unique creations they make. Remember to step back and observe all the wonderful learning in action.



"Purple Prickles"
Tyree - 3 years

Scan Me for more play ideas and inspirations

