

Each Peach Pear Plum, by Janet and Allan Ahlberg, is a great rhyming book to share with your child. It also gives you the opportunity to find out about the stories or rhymes behind each of the characters.

Don't worry if you don't have a copy of this book – you can listen to it via the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oyt 50ZoM3G8



Activity 1 – Story play

- a) Chant the book together and try inventing a rhythmic clap as a chorus between each page. Instead of clapping, you might want to experiment with objects in your house that can act musical instruments.
- b) Provide puppets or costumes and objects from the story and encourage your child to play with these items, recalling the story if they can. You could extend the props you give to explore the other stories within this book.
- c) Find out about the characters in the story by reading further tales and listening to nursery rhymes together.

Activity 2 – Getting crafty

- a) If you have playdough at home, encourage your child to make their own delicious pie that can be shared at a picnic. They could also make other items of food that could be eaten during a picnic. Once they have created this, encourage your child to role play and bring the picnic scene to life.
- b) Have a look at the last page and discuss what all the characters are eating together. Ask your child to design their own fruit pie and, if you can, bake the pie with your child.



Activity 3 – Thinking about maths

In the story, we 'spy' the three bears. Share the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears with your child as it is a great traditional tale to explore maths.

- a) Look at one-to-one correspondence: this involves children assigning one number name to each object that is being counted. Children need to ensure that they count each object only once ensuring they have counted every object. Can your child count out three bears from a group of teddies? Can they ensure each bear has a bowl and spoon? Can your child match the correct number with the amount of items they have set out? Can your child order the teddies from smallest to largest?
- b) Look at a Number Frame together. https://apps.mathlearningcenter.org/number-frames/. Can you child show the number 3 in different ways? Look at how many ways the number 3 can be shown in a frame and then find different objects that show the number 3. Examples include a dice, door number, a page number in a book, 3 apples in a fruit bowl, 3 pieces of Lego. You can then explore this concept with other numbers, beginning with numbers to 5 first.



Activity 4 – Mark making

- a) When your child has created their design for their own fruit pie, write a shopping list together. Discuss the importance of writing one word beneath the previous one for a list. As you model writing a list, your child could be drawing the items they need to buy.
- b) In the story, there are lots of illustrations of different trees. Look at these images with your child and discuss colour and shapes. Encourage your child to do some observational drawing and then describe what they have drawn.



Activity 5 – Getting outside

- a) Go for a walk/drive with your child. Perhaps you could walk the route you will take to get to school in September. As you walk, play 'I Spy'. You can introduce phonics as you play this by saying, 'I Spy with my little eye, something that sounds like c-a-t'.
- b) Using natural materials found outside, can your child create different props for the characters in the story? For example, if you visit a forest or woodland area, you could collect sticks to make a broomstick for the witch. Alternatively, you could encourage your child to make their own basket and test if it floats or sinks in water.





Taking a closer look

Have a look at the image with your child. Can they remember the names of each character? Can your child describe what each character is doing? Can they count how many charcaters are in the

image?





Some other stories by Janet and Allan Ahlberg







