

**Story of the Week: "Handa's Hen" by Eileen Browne**

**Online Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9FZqX1CBqE>



***Health and Wellbeing:***

- Healthy Eating - talking about and preparing a healthy breakfast.
- A sense of enjoyment and achievement when preparing healthy foods and drinks
- Taking care of animals.
- Talking about feelings and experiences.

***Literacy:***

- Listening to a story from beginning to end.
- Talking about the people in the story and what happens.
- Talking about a favourite part of a story.
- Predicting what might happen next.
- Retelling a story in own words with or without puppets/props.
- Making up your own story through role play, drawing pictures or writing.

***Numeracy:***

- Pointing to and counting items up to 10.
- Using number names up to 10.
- Using mathematical language - How many? How many altogether?
- If there was one more, how many would there be?
- Talking about and recognising simple patterns.

**Possible Home Learning Experiences Linked to the Story**

***Things to talk about:***

- The front cover of the book and what the story might be about
- The different animals Handa meets along the way - how they look- think of words to describe them.
- Count the different animals together. Encourage your child to point and count.
- Where Handa lives and what it is like there.
- What Handa feeds the hen for breakfast.

- What you like to eat for breakfast and how to make it.
- How Handa feels when she can't find Mondri.
- Think about a time when you have lost something and how you felt.
- Think about the sorts of animals you might meet if you went outside your house.
- Talk about what you think will happen at the end of the story. Will they find Mondri?
- Why do people keep hens?
- What is your favourite part of the story and why do you like it best?

***Things to do:***

- Draw a picture of your favourite part of the story.
- Make puppets to go with the story. Draw pictures of the characters and animals and cut them out. Stick the pictures to the back of lollipop sticks, straws or even pencils. You can hold the stick to retell the story.
- Read the story together every day in different ways e.g. with puppets, act it out, ask your child to tell you the story.
- The clothes in the story have bright colours and patterns. Can you design a dress or shirt with a bright colourful pattern?
- Experiment with different ways to make patterns. Bits of Lego, corks, lids from jars, pens, milk cartons can be dipped in paint and placed on paper to make bright marks. Some children will enjoy experimenting to make marks. Others will be able to make and continue more complex patterns (e.g. 2 red dots, 2 blue Lego marks.)
- Make breakfast together- Involve your child in chopping fruit, laying the table, putting out bowls, plates, cutlery, pouring milk/ juice, spreading toast tidying away afterwards and washing the dishes
- Learn some number songs - 5 Little Speckled Frogs:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqM8IijwED8>
- 1,2,3,4,5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ir\\_l7qTiZ4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ir_l7qTiZ4)
- 10 Green Bottles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0ooQv7oHvw>
- 5 Currant Buns in a Baker's Shop:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2s7gnaL5rI>

- Show a picture of each of the animals in the story - can you remember how many there were? Then count to see if you were right.
- Find lots of different things to count around the house; steps, cushions, chairs, pencils, buttons, counters. Practise pointing and counting.
- Find things to count outside...leaves, pebbles, stones, pine cones, litter, jaggy things, twigs, sticks, mini beasts.
  
- In the story Handa follows the hen's footprints. How many toes does the hen have? How many toes do you have? Make footprints by standing in paint, mud. Look at different feet sizes. Who has the biggest /smallest feet? Cut out footprints to make trails for others in your family to follow. Use mathematical language as you follow the trail... forward 2 steps, turn right, go forwards five steps etc. Make footprints of different animals.
- There are lots of different birds in the story. What birds can you spot outside. Help children to take a photograph or draw a picture of the different birds that they see outside.
- Look at the photos - can they sort them? Ask children to sort them out and tell you why they have sorted them in this way e.g. big birds/ small birds
- Find ways to count the birds you can see outside your window or those who visit your garden - use dots, tally marks, ticks to record each time you see one. Use mathematical language how many, how many altogether, most, least, big, small, big beaks, small beaks, long legs, short legs, black feathers, red tummy etc.
  
- Look online or in bird books to find out about the different birds:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/the-lets-go-club-bird-facts>
- Make simple bird feeders:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/makes/bird-feeder>
  - Use the "Kiddle" search engine .If you type in the names of different animals, you will see pictures and hear the sounds they make.
  - Watch the link below to find out more about Sunbirds:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMUO4A3GwFQ>
  - Learn a song about a lizard:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06sb2qz>
  - Read another story about Handa-"Handa's Noisy Night" by Eileen Browne: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phXu-v9nnew>

