The Magic Porridge Pot

We hope that you enjoyed our story and performance.

What’s in this pack?

Jobs on the farm
Messy play
All about oats - sorting & the world around us
Farmer's feelings
Haiku
Magic Pots Story making
Porridge making
What would you put on your porridge?
Colouring in Bear, Henny-Penny & the Magic Porridge Pot

We know that some of the activities won’t be suitable for all children but we hope that there will be something here that you can enjoy!

With thanks to the following artists for their part in its creation:

Emily Capstick
Annette Cobley-Francis
Louise Coigley (Lis’nTell: live inclusive storytelling)
Catherine Evans
John Grey
Alison Hale
Stephen Howe
Adam Pryce
Monica Sagar
Kaye Tew
Matt Wardle
**Jobs on the Farm**

In the story, there are lots of different jobs to be done on the farm. Some of these are:

- Driving the tractor
- Picking apples
- Fixing the broken hen house
- Plant the seeds
- Feed the horses
- Dig the soil
- Make a scarecrow
- Wash the sheep
- Sweep the stables
- Brushing the horses
- Looking for the chickens

1. Can you think of any more jobs that would need to be done? You could pretend to act them out - maybe take it in turns to guess which action it is. Try miming or only use sound.

2. Draw a picture of a farmer doing each of the jobs - what special tools or tools will they need to use?

   [You might want to include some specific vocabulary such as groom the horse, dip the sheep, sow the seeds.]

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**Messy Play - Save the Farm from Porridge!**

As part of your continuous provision or in a ‘messy play’ area, create a farm play set (with tractors, animals and maybe even a barn) and fill it with porridge oats - cooked &/or dry! Encourage the children to play imaginatively with it, drawing on their experience of the ‘porridge covered farm’ in the story.
What are oats used for?

In the story, oats are grown every year on the farm. Oats are used for lots of different things - not just for food.

Cut up or write the information below on cards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Making porridge</th>
<th>Getting rid of smells in the kitchen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Making a face mask to make your skin soft and smooth</td>
<td>Making biscuits and cakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stopping flea bites being itchy</td>
<td>Making flour for baking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making play dough</td>
<td>Being eaten by animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making ‘milk’ for vegan food and drinks</td>
<td>Making beer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You could sort the cards. Decide the sorting criteria or offer one of the following suggestions:

Snail Song

In our live performances, we shared Steve & Bear’s song about what it feels like when we are very worried and how it can feel as if we have a mountain to climb. You can watch Steve’s fantastic song online at Vimeo by searching for The Magic Porridge Pot - Snail Song

The song is based on the brilliant haiku by Kobayashi Issa:

**Oh Snail**

*Climb Mountain Fuji*

*but slowly, slowly.*
Maybe you could try writing a similar style poem about another animal. You can change the lines to something relevant to your animal, following the same structure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oh [animal]</td>
<td>Oh pig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Relevant action]</td>
<td>Wallow in mud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[adverb]</td>
<td>So stinky, stinky</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Farmer’s feelings**

The farmer experiences lots of different feelings during the story. Have a look at the farmer’s faces below:

1. Give each feeling a name. Challenge them to think of some less common names to describe each feeling (such as ‘delighted,’ ‘ecstatic’ or ‘pleased’ rather than ‘happy’)

2. Imagine what might have happened to make the farmer feel like that (perhaps the sheep ate all the oats or he has just been given a special present).
**Magic Pots - Story Making**

In our story, Bear gives Henny-Penny a magic porridge pot.

With the children, write a description of bear’s pot, using the following structure to create its story:

- Who does it belong to?
- How did they get it?
- Who made it and how?
- Why did they make it?

Your shared story might look something like this:

This pot belongs to bear. It was made by bear’s grandmother to keep all of her honey in. She made it many years before bear was born, by weaving the branches of the oldest tree in the woods. She didn’t know that the tree was magic, but when the pot was finished it could make as much porridge as anyone could eat!

Offer the children some different pots, for them to write about, using the given structure.
How to make Porridge

Ingredients:

A cup of oats
4 cups water or milk (or water)
Salt (to taste)
Your favourite topping

You will need:

A saucepan
A wooden spoon
A bowl

What to do:

1. Tip the oats into a saucepan, then add salt to taste.
2. Pour in the milk or water and mix well so there are no lumps.
3. Stir for 10 minutes on a medium heat, so that the porridge does not stick to the saucepan and burn.
4. Spoon the porridge into a bowl when it has thickened, and serve straight away with the topping of your choice.

What will you eat your porridge with?

Draw a picture of what you would like to put on your porridge.

(Maybe you could chat about what you might put on a bowl of porridge for: a queen, a unicorn, a dog, a bee or a giant. I wonder who else might like a bowl of porridge…

You could even create a porridge restaurant for a lot of unusual customers!)