SOFTWARE & TECH

Room On The Broom Activities

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Bringing a Beloved Story to Life: The Magic of Room On The Broom Activities

Few children's books capture the imagination quite like *Room on the Broom* by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. With its rhythmic rhyme, charming characters, and heartwarming message of friendship and inclusivity, it has become a staple in homes and classrooms around the world. But the magic of this story doesn't have to end when you close the book. By exploring a range of **Room On The Broom Activities**, you can extend the learning, deepen comprehension, and spark a genuine love for storytelling in children. These activities are not just about keeping little hands busy; they transform a passive reading experience into an active, multi-sensory adventure. Whether you are a parent looking for rainy-day fun, a teacher planning a cross-curricular topic, or a caregiver seeking educational play, this guide offers a treasure trove of ideas that are both engaging and purposeful.

Why Choose Themed Learning Around Picture Books?

Using a single, high-quality picture book as a springboard for learning is a powerful pedagogical tool. When you centre activities around a familiar and beloved narrative, children are immediately more engaged. They bring prior knowledge, excitement, and a personal connection to each task. The **Room On The Broom Activities** can effortlessly span multiple areas of development, from literacy and mathematics to science, art, and social-emotional learning. This holistic approach helps children see connections between different subjects, making learning feel organic and meaningful rather than fragmented.

Enhancing Literacy Through Play-Based Learning

Literacy is at the heart of any book-based activity, and *Room on the Broom*is a goldmine for language development. The story is written in a bouncy, rhyming scheme that naturally supports phonological awareness. Here are some targeted literacy activities rooted in the story.

Story Retelling and Sequencing

One of the most effective ways to check comprehension is through retelling. You can create a simple story map using pictures of the key characters: the witch, the cat, the dog, the bird, the frog, and the terrifying dragon. After reading the story a few times, invite children to place the characters in the correct order of appearance. You can take this further by using props. A small toy broomstick, a miniature witch's hat, and a few animal figures make a wonderful retelling basket. As children manipulate the objects, they verbally recount the tale, practising narrative structure and sequencing vocabulary like "first," "then," "next," and "finally."

Rhyming Word Hunts

The rhythmic text is packed with rhyming pairs: "cat" and "hat," "dog" and "frog," "bird" and "heard." A simple

activity is to give children two sets of cards—one with words from the story and one with matching rhyming words (some from the story, some new). They can work individually or in pairs to find the rhyming matches. For older or more advanced children, you can challenge them to create their own rhyming couplets inspired by the book: “The witch had a bat, and she sat on a mat.”

Character Description and Vocabulary Building

The characters in the book are distinct and full of personality. Create a “Wanted” poster or a character profile for the witch. What does she look like? What is her personality like? Use descriptive vocabulary from the book such as “long ginger hair,” “tall black hat,” or “pointy chin.” For younger children, focus on adjectives like “kind,” “clever,” and “brave.” For older children, you can introduce more sophisticated words from the story, such as “plait,” “twitched,” and “clutching.”

Developing Mathematical Concepts with a Witchy Twist

The repetitive structure of the story, where animals are added to the broom one by one, makes it perfect for early math skills. **Room On The Broom Activities** can easily incorporate counting, addition, and pattern recognition.

Counting and Simple Addition

Start with the most basic concept: how many characters are on the broom at the beginning? How many after the dog jumps on? Use small world figures or laminated cut-outs to physically add and remove characters. This concrete experience helps children understand the concept of addition as “adding more.” You can ask questions like, “The witch, the cat, and the dog are on the broom. How many is that? Now the bird comes. How many are there now?” This hands-on approach to math is far more engaging than a worksheet.

Weighing and Measuring

Does the broom break because there are too many characters, or because they are too heavy? Introduce the concept of weight. Provide a balance scale and various classroom or household objects. Ask children to predict which objects are heavier. You can even weigh “potions” ingredients like flour, rice, or sand. This connects directly to the story’s climax when the broom snaps under the weight of the animals.

Patterns and Sorting

The witch’s hat is iconic. Provide children with templates of a hat and a variety of stickers, stamps, or drawn shapes. Ask them to create a repeating pattern on the hat, such as “star, moon, star, moon” or “red, blue, red, blue.” You can also sort the characters by size, colour, or even by features (those with fur, those with feathers, those with scales). Sorting is a fundamental mathematical skill that helps children organise information.

Exploring Science and Sensory Play

The magical elements of the story—potions, flying, and the natural environment—offer fantastic opportunities for scientific enquiry and sensory exploration.

Make a Magic Potion

This is perhaps the most popular of all **Room On The Broom Activities**. It perfectly combines imaginative play with early science concepts. You will need a large container or bowl, water, and various “ingredients.” These can be natural items like leaves, grass, petals, and twigs, or kitchen items like baking soda, vinegar, food colouring, and glitter. A simple recipe involves adding baking soda to water with food colouring, then pouring in vinegar to create a fizzy reaction. While children mix, introduce vocabulary like “dissolve,” “fizz,” “pour,” and “stir.” Ask them what they think will happen when you add the next ingredient. This develops prediction skills and a basic understanding of cause and effect.

Building a Strong Broom

After the broom breaks in the story, present children with a design challenge: Can they build a stronger broom? Provide materials like craft sticks, straws, pipe cleaners, string, tape, and leaves. They must work individually or in small groups to design and construct a broom that can hold some weight (like a few toy animals). This is a fantastic STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) activity that encourages problem-solving, planning, and resilience when their first design fails. It teaches them that failure is part of the learning process, just as the witch learns in the story.

Shadow Play and Light

The story includes a dragon and a frightening shadow. Use a torch and your hands or simple paper cut-outs to create shadows on a wall. Experiment with moving the light source closer and further away to make the shadow bigger or smaller. Discuss why the dragon’s shadow looked so scary. This simple activity introduces concepts of light, opacity, and perspective.

Creative Arts and Crafts Inspired by the Story

Art activities allow for personal expression and fine motor skill development. They are a core part of any themed learning unit.

Design a New Broom

After building a strong broom in the science activity, children can now design a beautiful one. Provide them with drawing materials or craft supplies. Ask them to think about what their broom would look like. Would it have streamers? Would it be painted with stars and moons? This open-ended creative task allows every child to produce something unique and personally meaningful.

Character Puppets and a Stage

Create simple stick puppets of the witch, her cat, and the other animals. Children can colour, cut out, and attach their characters to craft sticks. They can then perform the story for a friend or family member. Building a simple shoe-box theatre adds another layer of excitement. This activity reinforces comprehension, narrative skills, and oral language development. It also builds confidence as children take on the role of a storyteller.

Witch’s Hat Decorating

You can buy plain witch hats from a craft store or make simple cones from paper. Provide a variety of decorating materials: tissue paper, pom-poms, feathers, sequins, and stickers. Let children create their own unique witch’s hat. This activity is excellent for fine motor skills as they pinch, glue, and place small objects. It also allows for individual choice and creativity.

Imaginative Play and Drama

Drama and role-play are powerful ways for children to process stories and develop social skills. **Room On The Broom Activities** are particularly well-suited for this.

Hot Seating the Characters

After reading the story several times, ask a child to sit in a “hot seat” and pretend to be one of the characters. The other children can ask questions. For example, they might ask the dog, “How did you feel when the witch said there was room on the broom?” or ask the witch, “Why did you let the animals come on your broom?” This activity encourages empathy, perspective-taking, and deeper thinking about character motivation.

Retelling Through Movement

Put on some music and assign roles. As the narrator tells the story (or as you read it aloud), children act out the parts. They can fly around the room like the witch, bark like the dog, hop like the frog, and hide from the dragon. This kinesthetic activity is perfect for energetic children and helps them internalise the story’s rhythm and sequence. It also reinforces vocabulary through physical action.

Creating a Story Setting

Transform a corner of your classroom or playroom into the world of the story. Use a play mat or a large piece of green fabric for the ground. Add some toy trees, a small cardboard castle for the dragon's lair, a blue tray for the puddle, and a stick for the broom. Provide small world figures of the characters. Children can then free-play, re-enacting the story or creating entirely new adventures for the witch and her friends. This type of play is incredibly valuable for language development, social negotiation, and narrative creation.

Outdoor and Gross Motor Activities

Don't forget to get moving! Large motor skills are just as important as fine motor skills for young children.

Broomstick Races

This is a classic and simple game. Give each child a "broomstick" (a long stick, pool noodle, or even a rolled-up piece of card). Mark a start and finish line. Children must "fly" their broomstick from one end to the other, holding it between their legs. You can add obstacles to make it more challenging, such as cones to weave around or hoops to jump over. This activity is a fantastic gross motor workout and is guaranteed to bring lots of laughter.

The Dragon's Den

Set up a simple obstacle course that represents the story. For example, children must creep through a "forest" (under a table draped with cloth), "fly" over a "lake" (jump across pillows), and then sneak past the "dragon's den" (a designated area with a toy dragon) to reach the witch's cauldron. This imaginative play combines physical activity with narrative recall and problem-solving.

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Take the learning outdoors. Give children a list of natural items to find, inspired by the story. The list could include: a long stick (for a broom), a green leaf (for the frog), a feather (for the bird), a yellow flower (for the sun), and a muddy puddle. This activity connects the story to the real world and encourages observation and exploration of the natural environment.

Social-Emotional Learning Through the Story

Room on the Broom has a strong message

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