

Learning possibilities

Text: Alborough, J 2012, *Six little chicks*, Doubleday, London.

Engage

- Step 1. If you have this book at home, encourage your child/children to predict what the story is about from the cover. Before reading, invite your child/children to look at the cover and make predictions, for example: 'What do you think this book is about?' If you do not have the story use the suggested video link in the Resources box and watch the story together.
- Step 2. Invite your child/children to tell you what they know about foxes before you begin. Pose the question, 'What do you think the fox might want to do in this story?'
- Step 3. As you read, place emphasis on the rhyming words. Some children may be able to recognise rhyming words but may not be able to name them at this point. For young children to develop an understanding of rhyme, they need constant exposure to the concept through literary experiences and playing with language.
- Step 4. Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.
1. What was mother hen doing in this story?
 2. Who did the scary voice belong to?
 3. What did the chicks in the story do? (peck, cheep, flap, hop, kick)
 4. How were the chicks rescued from the fox?

Respond

Discuss the characters in the story and how the author made the fox seem bad by giving him a scary voice and by having the fox say, 'I can smell chicks, come closer.' Look back through the book at the illustrations and you're your child/children's attention to the visual clues that show how the hen and her chicks were feeling.

Extend

- Talk about ways of finding out more information about animals and encourage your child/children to share their knowledge, for example: they may suggest that they ask grandpa, find a book, ask a friend, watch a DVD or use a computer.
- With your support, help your child/children in an online search for information and images about chickens and hens. When working on the computer, talk about the importance of online safety, searching with a grown-up and model aloud the steps involved in your search.

Resources

Poem

'I'm a little chicken' by Susan Peters
<http://sciencenetlinks.com/student-teacher-sheets/egg-poem-and-chick-song/>

'Five eggs and five eggs' (traditional)

Five eggs and five eggs,
That makes ten.
Sitting on top is a mother hen.
Crackle, crackle, crackle
What do you see?
Ten fluffy chicks, fluffy as can be.

Video

Jez Alborough reads *Six Little Chicks* (YouTube, Random House Children's Publishers UK.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrRR7pV7RcA>