

Five Minutes Peace

By Jill Murphy

Summary of the story

Mrs Large just wants a few minutes of peace and quiet in her hot, foamy, ever so bubbly bubble bath. But with Lester, Laura and the baby being as bouncy and boisterous as ever, Mum finds her peace to be very short-lived!

Introducing the story for the first time

Read the title of the book from the cover, pointing to the words **Five Minutes Peace** as you say it. Repeat the title with the child. Tell the child that the elephant in the picture is called Mrs Large and all she wants is five minutes peace.

Reading the story for the first time

- Read the story, moving your finger under the words as you read.
- Give the child plenty of time to look at the pictures.
- The first time you read the book together, make sure that you point out the names of things your child may not know. Examples of words to point out can be found on page 2.
- After reading, ask the child to recall what happened in the story. Ask, '**do you think Mrs Large got her five minutes peace?**' and '**why did she not get her five minutes peace?**'.

Reading the book again and again

- Re-read **Five Minutes Peace**, leaving more and more of the reading or retelling to the child.
- Every time you read the story, try and get your child to give more detailed answers as this will help to improve their vocabulary and language skills.
- Give **open-ended** prompts on each page. You could ask, '**what's happening in this picture?**'.
- Use **wh-prompts** about objects or activities shown in the pictures. Ask, **what, where, why, when** and **how** questions. For example, you could ask, '**what's on Mrs Large's tray?**'.
- Examples of prompts to use can be found on page 2.
- Use your finger to point to what you are asking or talking about.
- **Evaluate** your child's response. Think about what your child said, was it correct? If it was let your child know by praising them. If your child gave the wrong answer, gently provide the correct answer.
- **Expand** your child's response by rephrasing or adding more information.
- Ask your child to **repeat** the new information or language by asking the prompt again.
- Praise and encourage your child. Tell your child when he or she is doing well by saying things like, '**good talking!**' or '**that's right. Well done**' or '**you're really good at this!**'.

Building literacy

Talk to your child about when they have a bath. Use words like **bath, bubbles, hot, toys** and so on. Relate their bath time to the one Mrs Large and her children have.

Vocabulary

The words listed below are from the story or are shown in the pictures. As you read the book, point to the pictures and ask the child to name the object or the action shown. This will help the child learn new words. You can use the words below or you can choose words you think will interest your child.

Front cover: Bath-hat, towel, bath, bubbles, trunk, cup.

Page 1: bowl, cereal, egg, car, teddy, spoon.

Page 2: toast, curlers, cake, milk jug, marmalade, saucer.

Pages 3-4: fridge, tray, stairs, rabbit, newspaper, window.

Pages 5-6: bath foam, bath-hat, plant, recorder, toothbrush, mirror.

Pages 7-8: book, Little Red Riding Hood, duck, boat, bus, ball.

Pages 9-10: water, cherry, pyjamas, tap, flower, tea pot.

Pages 11-12: dressing-gown, bread, egg cup, picture, chair, spoon.

Prompts

Ask your child questions about **Five Minutes Peace** to start a conversation about the book. You can prompt your child on every page using the questions below. If the child says something spontaneously about a picture, try to expand on it and listen while he or she repeats it.

Front cover: Who is that?

Page 1: What's all over the floor?

Page 2: Why do you think Mrs Large is sneaking off?

Page 3: What's the little elephant got on his head?

Page 4: Do you think she is happy that they are following her? Why not?

Page 5: What is Mrs Large doing in the bath?

Page 6: How do you think Mrs Large feels about Lester playing his tune?

Page 7: What book is Laura reading?

Page 8: Do you remember when you put all your toys in the bath? What toys did you put in?

Page 9: Where are all the children? How do you think Mrs Large feels?

Page 10: Do you remember when you got in the bath with your pyjamas on? What happened?

Page 11: What did Mrs Large want? Five minutes _____ (peace).

Page 12: What happened when Mrs Large tried to have a bath?