

# eye brings you another batch of the latest products and books on offer



## Can I Go and Play Now?

Greg Bottrill

ISBN 9781526423276

£19.99. Paperback

Publisher SAGE Publications

Orders Tel: 020 73248500;  
www.sagepublications.com

### Review by Neil Henty

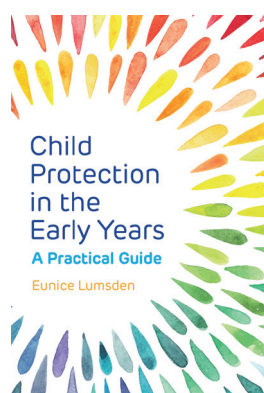
Continuous provision is something that is talked about a great deal in early years education, but what do we mean by it, and are our definitions all the same? What should we expect of it and how can we get the most out of it?

The author of this thought-provoking book uses his personal teaching experience, that has helped shape his pedagogy and resulted in a '3Ms' approach to continuous provision – which include Making conversations; mark making; mathematics; muscle and movement; mindfulness; and magic. He also tackles definition of play and the very challenging role of the early years teacher.

Most of all, readers will be challenged to reflect on their current provision.

## Child Protection in the Early Years: A Practical Guide

Eunice Lumsden



ISBN 9781785922657

£16.99. Paperback

Publisher Jessica Kingsley Publishers

Orders Tel: 02078332307  
www.jkp.com

### Review by Neil Henty

This is a vital text in the continuing drive to ensure that all professionals working with our youngest children are fully focused on the need to safeguard and protect those they have been entrusted to care for, and to understand ways they can support those who have suffered from abuse.

The foreword to this book, from Dr Celia Doyle, sums up the need for such a work: 'Young children are among the most vulnerable people in our community. Protected, cherished and encouraged to explore their world, they will flourish, but exploited, molested or subjected to violence or neglect, they will struggle to do so. Because Early Years practitioners relate so closely and for so many hours with young children, they are key professionals when it comes to safeguarding.'

Practitioners need to be supported in safeguarding; they need to understand signs of abuse, often from children unable to communicate or express themselves; they need to know who to talk to and who to raise concerns to; they need to have the experience and knowledge to be able to offer support to the child, and more. The main focus of the book is to enable those

studying on early years courses or already working in settings to 'appreciate the rights infants and young children have to: Be protected from harm; receive appropriate services and intervention if they are at risk of being harmed or have been abused; have practitioners and professionals working with them who understand the impact that adverse life experiences can have, and are able to apply this knowledge to their practice in ECEC.

'This book provides an introduction to the complex and multi-dimensional area of child maltreatment, including legislation and policy that articulates that a child's needs must always be paramount... It seeks to inspire you to want to know more and embrace your own responsibilities in this area.'

This is an excellent book and it is an important book, one that should be on every practitioner's reading list. It needs to form the basis of understanding and reflection and needs to underpin a continuing desire to ensure that children's rights and wellbeing are safeguarded and that support for those who have encountered abuse is appropriate and effective.

## BSL Food and Drink for Tots: Mealtimes, Fruit and Salad, Vegetables, Basics and Treats, Hot Favourites

Let's Sign, Cath Smith (illustrations)



ISBN 9781905913657

£5.99. Paperback

Publisher Co-Sign Communications

Orders <http://www.deafbooks.co.uk>

### Review by Neil Henty

This colourful little booklet represents great value for money, and forms part of a larger series that serves to make British Sign Language simple to understand and easy to use, both in the setting and at home.

The opening pages include basic handshapes and two-fingered alphabet spelling, all illustrated clearly, that will form the basis of the signs in the book, and for the other titles in this series.

These bite-sized books provide such a handy reference, with two words or phrases on each page that include the sign and instructions for any movement involved. Clear, concise and easy to follow, every practitioner can start to pick up signs that will help them communicate more effectively with children, which can only benefit children's progress.

The book is also available in other formats, for ease of use, and to make it as accessible as possible.

And so we leap into June, and the sun reappears, as if by magic, from snow to scorch in a matter of weeks, nature always surprises, keeping us on our toes, fuelling the liquid imaginations of the young (and sometimes the old) and our book selection certainly this month plays ball, teasing the possibilities...

### **Big Bunny by Rowboat Watkins**

(£12.99 from Chronicle Books; ISBN: 9781452163901).

This is a story about how stories develop when adults and children share stories with each other. It reads like an observation of where the imagination can lead you.

I could tell you the story, but it would just be a starting point, because once you share *Big Bunny* with children their stories will grow and diverge, contract and converge, fly and soar, then twist and turn until you are telling each other new stories that no-one has ever told before.

This is a clever book that, thankfully, doesn't take itself too seriously; that would just cramp your imagination.

### **Goat's Coat by Tom Percival and Christine Pym**

(£6.99 from Bloomsbury; ISBN: 9781408881019).

This is an interesting book in that it reminds me of two other stories, or rather a combination of two others – Julia Donaldson's *The Smartest Giant in Town*, and *The Story Blanket* by Ferida Wolff and Elena Odriozola. That is to take nothing away from this lovely tale because stories are told in a million different ways and variations and what matters most is that children will enjoy reading and having *Goat's Coat* read to them.

It tells the story of Alfonzo and his dashing new coat. He could not be prouder of his new jacket, but as he takes a walk he encounters animals that are

in need of help and he does what all kind and decent folk would do, he helps them, using the only thing he has to hand, his lovely new coat.

So a family of frogs gets a new boat, while a cat with its tail stuck in a mousetrap gets a fetching bandage, and along the way chicks and hedgehogs all get helped. But what about Alfonzo? When the night falls and the temperature drops, he suddenly feels very cold.

If only there was someone who could help... This is a lovely story that shows that kindness is never wasted and that you should always take the chance to help someone less fortunate than yourself.

### **Is it a Mermaid? by Candy Gourlay and Francesca Chessa**

(£11.99 from Otter-Barry Books; ISBN: 9781910959121).

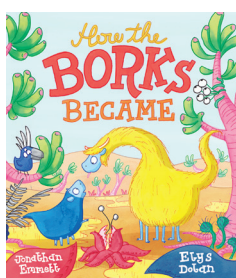
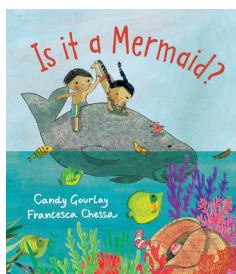
As well as learning a great deal about the endangered dugong, this charming story reveals the magic of children free to exercise their imaginations and play in the natural world.

There is an easiness of pace here, that reflects being on the beach and that adds to the charm. There is the sense of a boy growing up who doubts the magic of the natural world, but who, like many children, are easily won round. I could happily spend time with this book.

### **Along Came a Different by Tom McLaughlin**

(£11.99 from Bloomsbury; ISBN: 978140888926).

I really like this book, and so does my son, he asked for it



over and over again, calling for the 'shape book, Daddy'. And while his description does not entirely capture the essence of the book, he has picked up on the fact that this is a book about difference and diversity.

First we meet the Reds, who love being red – being red is the best thing ever. The reds are circles who eat apples. But then 'along came a different'... a yellow, a family of square yellows, with bananas and yellow books, and yellow cars. They love being yellow. It is the best thing ever. But then 'along came a different'... this time the triangular blues with their blueberry shakes and bow ties, twanging their blue guitars. Best thing ever, being a blue.

The problem is, none of these colours get along; they argue and get sillier and sillier – 'red air is nicer than blue air', and refuse to share. They even draw up rules to govern their silliness, and the rules worked for a while because of their silliness.

Until, another different came along, and another, and another, and they all liked each others' things, and it all got a bit confusing, all different shapes and colours... until, finally, something completely different comes along, which is also a bit familiar to all of them, showing the reds and yellows and blues that diversity is brilliant and inclusive.

Being different is the best thing ever, especially when you accept that those differences are what makes everyone the same. A really lovely and important book.

### **How the Borks Became by Jonathan Emmett and Elys Dolan**

(£11.99 from Otter-Barry Books; ISBN: 9781910959190).

It took a while for me to understand the lesson this book was teaching! It is a quirky story with lovely illustrations that come straight out of the Edward Lear school of imagination.

You see, the Borks haven't always looked like they do, roaming the plains of planet Charleebob, eating yellow Hapicriss Moss. No, they were once blue, short-haired creatures, living their lives alongside the Bezzlers and Scrambling Gawps, dropping fragrant dung on the heads of Frickles.

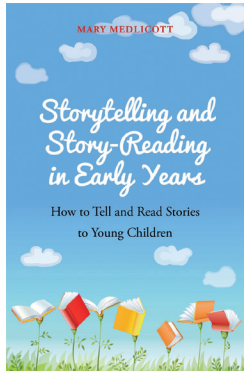
So, why are the Borks now yellow, hairy, long-necked creatures? Well, there was the time some of the baby Borks were a born bit hairier, then there was the time it got really cold for a while, then there were the predations of the Ravenous Snarfle – it helped to be yellow on that day! Then the few with longer necks were able to reach the leaves of the Ju-Ju Bong trees when the drought occurred. Those Borks survived and thrived.

And you have just learnt the theory of evolution – the final pages ease children into this theory, including a lovely time chart showing Homo Sapiens' descent from Prokaryotes over a period of 3,500 million years ago.

This is mind-boggling for most adults, but children's imaginations are well placed to take this on and run with it. It will certainly spark conversations!

## Storytelling and Story-Reading in Early Years: How to tell and read stories to young children

Mary Medicott



ISBN 9781785922985

£14.99. Paperback

Publisher Jessica Kingsley Publishers

Orders Tel: 02078332307  
www.jkp.com

### Review by Neil Henty

I really value books that promote the power of storytelling, that I hope will convince people that they too can be brilliant storytellers and that the stories they share can have deep-rooted and powerful influences on those who hear them, and who may well pass them on.

We are fortunate to have a number of storytellers write for the magazine, whose love of sharing stories shines through their words on the page – and what is a story if there is no-one to share it with? But everyone in the early years is a storyteller, or at least a story-sharer, reading to children from picture books and others sources, and how often do you subtly change a story for the person you are reading it to, because you instinctively know that change will resonate?

As the author of this great book states, we are all storytellers, given the chance; whenever we meet other people, we share the stories of our lives, our days, our nights, our shopping trips, our family spats, our achievements, our hopes, our fears, and so on. These are all stories, shared with an audience, each with their own lives and impact. Next time someone tells you that they 'aren't a storyteller', remind them of your recent conversations... 'once upon a time, there was an early years practitioner who couldn't tell a story, at least that was the story she told her friend...'

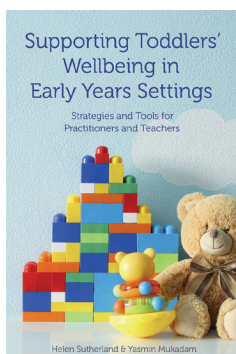
Stories are so powerful and any resources that help practitioners to develop their skills in order to plan and run storytelling and reading sessions

for children are worth their weight in gold. In this book you will find advice for using props and voices, for adapting stories for mixed ability groups, including rhymes and activities, facial expressions for bringing stories to life, and more.

Children thrive on stories, and on hearing language that helps to expand their own communication skills. As the author explains, this book is addressed to people who work with children, to help them 'give children the joyous and ever-expanding familiarity with stories that will form a positive basis for their development as human beings'. Stories have power for both storyteller and those who hear them, and this book is a great place to start for all those who would learn to grown as a storyteller.

## Supporting Toddlers' Wellbeing in Early Years Settings: Strategies and Tools for Practitioners and Teachers

Helen Sutherland and Yasmin Mukadam (Editors)



ISBN 9781785922626

£16.99 Paperback

Publisher Jessica Kingsley Publishers

Orders Tel: 02078332307  
www.jkp.com

### Review by Neil Henty

The fact that wellbeing features heavily in debate on childhood is a double-edged sword; it is a welcome acknowledgement of the important role it plays in a child's healthy development, but it also ties in with the statistics that children are more unhappy than ever before.

The fact that we are addressing these issues is welcome and important. The wellbeing of children needs to be addressed in the context of the wider environment of the child.

In recent years, the work of Professor Ferre Laevers has influenced practice around the world, The Well Being and Involvement Scales (2015) are helping to shape our approach to what is important for children growing, learning and developing in our modern world. The Unicef wellbeing reports are also helping to shape policy,

leading especially to *Every Child Matters* (2003), which, sadly, seems to have disappeared from policy. Wellbeing forms a fundamental part of the *Early Years Foundation Stage*, but it can be a hard thing to actually define, and interpretations of what it is and how to support it can vary widely around the country.

Extensions to the funded early education entitlements means that more settings are taking on vulnerable and disadvantaged toddlers and how these children are supported has a big impact on their future chances.

So how do we support toddlers at an age when they are beginning to learn how to communicate, to play, to learn and to socialize? Do we offer enough training to practitioners and is it of a high enough quality? It is here that this book helps to fill a gap. It explores the

context and concepts of wellbeing, setting out practical guidance and strategies, covering a number of key factors, such as home, family, health, development and learning, voice and expressions, early language, meal times and settings.

The guidance is supported by case studies and examples of good practice from the UK, Norway and Spain. It also looks at the work of the Toddler Wellbeing Project, which helped to develop materials, tools and audits, and delivered training to participants to support their knowledge and understanding of supporting toddler wellbeing, implementing a variety of strategies to improve opportunities for their toddlers. The work of this project provides the foundation for this book, and I would recommend all practitioners to read and reflect upon it.