



A monster story

Taking inspiration from David McKee's story *Not Now, Bernard*, the children have fun creating and talking about their own monster and taking it on adventures.

Early communicators

listen to the story, join in with the refrain and talk about what happens.

More confident

communicators listen attentively to the way the story is read, join in using a different voice for each character and go on to make up their own stories.

What you need

Not Now, Bernard by David McKee (1982, Red Fox); a large cardboard box; scissors; glue; powder paints; large brushes; card; thick black felt-tipped pens; painting aprons.

What to do

- Show the children the book, read the title together

and talk about the cover illustration. What do the children think the story will be about? Begin to read the story, using a different voice for each character. Reassure the children that the events of the story are make-believe and would not happen in real life!

- Remind the children to listen very carefully as you re-read the story. Invite them to join in with the refrain *Not now, Bernard* and the

speeches *ROAR* and *But I'm a monster*, imitating your tone of voice and different character voices if possible.

- Now tell the children that you want them to make their own monster, similar to the one in the story. Take the cardboard box and cut out a large mouth shape, big enough to allow toys to pass through. Count the monster's fingers and toes from the book illustrations and help the children to draw and cut out large card hands and feet. Tape these to the sides and base of the box. Now count the monster's teeth and horns, make these from card and glue them to the model. Advise the children to refer to the illustrations again to decide which colours to mix to

Learning objectives Language for Communication

- Listen to stories with increasing attention and recall. (CLL)

Early Learning Goal

- Listen with enjoyment and respond to stories, songs and other music, rhymes and poems and make up their own stories, songs, rhymes and poems. (CLL)