

JOE WHITE

HUMPTY DUMPTY



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SENSORY STORY

Humpty Dumpty

A Multi-Sensory Adventure by Joe White

As with any activity the storyteller needs to be attuned to the learner's individual sensory preferences. Nothing about this sensory experience should be aversive. It will be up to the storyteller to involve the learner as much as possible in the storytelling experience. Wherever possible communication should be encouraged, this may be eye contact, preferences, or consent. The learner should be as active a participant as possible fully empowered.

If you need to adapt this story to meet an individual's needs do so. When reading it you must be fully involved.

Have fun, in a wintery wonderland sensory story throughout. As long as the learner is enjoying it you can't go wrong.

Essential Sensory resources

A Mirror - This will be securely placed where the learner can see it. I use a perspex mirror designed for young children as it is light and safe. I have used car mirrors that attach to the headrest to allow parents to see their babies.

A box to keep the resources - you can reveal them from the box to build anticipation and joint attention. You really have two choices here - to have a consistent sensory story box, or to use a themed box i.e. a Treasure chest

Humpty Dumpty: Sensory Resources

Textured "wall": Piece of cardboard covered with sandpaper. Alternatively, a board with various textures (smooth tile, rough burlap, bumpy bubble wrap).

Soft landing pad: Cushion or foam mat.

Toy horses: Small plastic or wooden toy horses.

Sound effects: Coconut shells for horse hoof sounds.

Egg-shaped puzzle: Large foam or wooden egg-shaped puzzle

Real eggs: Hard-boiled egg (cooled) for handling. Raw egg (for adult demonstration only).

Mirror: Small, unbreakable mirror.

Water spray bottle: For misting to represent height.

Step or box: Small, sturdy step or box for careful climbing.

Eggshell sensory item: Cracked eggshells in a sealed, clear plastic bag. Cleaned and dried eggshell pieces for touching.

Audio equipment: Recording of horse neighing and people shouting.

Scrambled eggs: Small bowl of cooled, scrambled eggs for touching and smelling.

Egg carton: Empty egg carton for exploring shape and texture.

Feathers: To represent softness and the idea of birds/eggs.

Straw or hay: To represent a nest or the ground where Humpty fell.

Bandages or tape: To pretend to "fix" Humpty.

Egg-shaped stress ball: For squeezing and tactile stimulation.

Balance board: To safely simulate sitting on a wall (with adult supervision).

Sensory bin: Filled with rice, beans, or water beads, hiding egg-shaped objects.

Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,

[Sensory resource: A textured "wall" made from a piece of cardboard covered with sandpaper]

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.

[Sensory resource: A soft cushion or foam mat to represent the "fall"]

All the king's horses and all the king's men,

[Sensory resource: Small toy horses to touch and the sound of horse hooves (coconut shells clapping together)]

Couldn't put Humpty together again.

[Sensory resource: Cleaned out egg shells to crack or A puzzle of an egg shape, with large, easy-to-handle pieces]



Humpty Dumpty: Additional sensory story elements:

Humpty was an egg, so smooth and round,

[Sensory resource: A real, hard-boiled egg (cooled) for children to handle carefully]

He loved to look at the world all around.

[Sensory resource: A small mirror for children to see their reflection]

The wall was high, it reached to the sky,

[Sensory resource: A spray bottle with water to mist children's faces, representing height]

But Humpty was brave and wanted to try.

[Sensory resource: A small step or sturdy box for children to carefully step onto]

When he fell, he cracked and broke,

[Sensory resource: The sound of cracking eggshells (can use real eggshells in a sealed plastic bag)]

His shell in pieces, it was no joke.

[Sensory resource: Eggshell pieces (cleaned and dried) for children to touch carefully]

The horses neighed, the men did shout,

[Sensory resource: A recording of horses neighing and people calling out]

But poor Humpty couldn't be sorted out.

[Sensory resource: A bowl of scrambled eggs (cooled) for children to touch and smell]



Making the Experience More Interactive

Here are some ways to make the Humpty Dumpty sensory story more interactive for children:

1. Act out the experiences:

- Have children take turns pretending to be Humpty Dumpty sitting on the wall (cardboard with sandpaper).
 - Let them act out the fall onto the soft cushion.
- Encourage them to pretend to be the king's horses and men trying to put Humpty back together.

2. Take turns:

- Assign different sensory props to different children. One child can be in charge of the toy horses, another the sound effects, and so on.
- Rotate roles so each child gets to experience different parts of the story.

3. Add movements or sounds:

- Invite children to make cracking sounds when Humpty falls.
- Encourage them to neigh like horses and shout like the king's men.
- Have them mimic climbing motions as Humpty goes up the wall, and falling motions as he comes down.

4. Ask questions:

- "How do you think Humpty felt sitting on top of the wall?"
- "What do you think the king's horses and men said when they couldn't fix Humpty?"
 - "If you were there, how would you try to help Humpty?"

5. Invite touching/smelling:

- Allow children to carefully handle the real egg, feeling its smooth surface.
- Let them touch the eggshell pieces, noting how fragile they are.

Making the Experience More Interactive 2

6. Retell the story:

- After going through the sensory story, invite children to retell it using the props.
- Encourage them to add their own interpretations or alternative endings.

7. Create a sensory wall:

- Set up different textures (rough, smooth, bumpy) on a safe, low wall or board.
- Let children feel the different textures as they pretend to be Humpty sitting on various parts of the wall.

8. Egg and spoon race:

- Set up a simple obstacle course and have children carefully carry a (hard-boiled) egg on a spoon.
- This reinforces the idea of Humpty's fragility and the care needed to keep him safe.

9. Humpty Dumpty puzzle:

- Create a large Humpty Dumpty puzzle on the floor using cut-out shapes.
- Have children work together to put Humpty back together, unlike the king's men in the story.

10. Sensory bin exploration:

- Create a sensory bin filled with materials of various textures (sand, pebbles, feathers) and hide egg-shaped objects in it.
- Let children search for the "eggs" while exploring different textures.

Remember to adapt these interactive elements based on the age and abilities of your group, always prioritizing safety and inclusion. These activities not only make the story more engaging but also support various areas of development in the EYFS framework.