

Guide Notes

Title: Farmer Blake and Sneaky Snake

Genre: Fiction

Visual Information

Discuss the use of illustrative text, the sign (on the hen house) and the chalk board.



What Do You Think?

(Questions to promote discussion and critical thinking)

- What do you think this story will be about?
- Look at pages 2 & 3. Name all the items a hen needs to live?
- Look at pages 6 & 7. What time of day is it? How do you know?
- Why does Sneaky Snake slide silently into the hen house?
- What does Sneaky Snake want to do?
- Look at pages 8 & 9. How do you think the hen feels when she discovers her egg has disappeared?
- Look at pages 10 & 11. Who is watching the hens?
- Look at page 16. How do the hens know Sneaky Snake ate their eggs?
- Look at pages 20 & 21. Do you think Sneaky Snake knows he is being watched by the hens?
- Why do you think Sneaky Snake can't fit through the hole?
- Look at page 23. What do you think Sneaky Snake will do next?

Language Focus

Interesting words: horrible, hullabaloo, squawked, enormous, gobble

Word families and rhyming words: see, me, hee, be & Blake, cake, snake, bake

Focus on initial consonant: h (ha, hee, horrible, hullabaloo, hole, hens)

Focus on blend: cl (cluck)

Look at suffix: ed (baked, whispered, squawked, clucked)

Print Conventions: Capital letters for beginning of sentences and names (Farmer Blake) full stops, exclamation marks, speech marks, commas.

Integrated Curriculum

Language

- Write a "What Happens Next?" story about Sneaky Snake
- Encourage children to retell the story.
- Encourage the children to read repetitive text.
- Dramatize the story.
- Discuss the plot of the story and the characters.

Science

- Bake a chocolate cake.
- Cook some hard boiled eggs, scrambled eggs, poached eggs and fried eggs. Talk about the different cooking methods.
- Use an internet search engine to find out more about hens or snakes.
- What do they need to survive? (e.g., shelter, food, water, air). How many eggs can a hen lay in one day?
- What do hens eat? Do they really eat spaghetti and meatballs and icecream?
- Look in factual books to find photos of hens. Find out about the different breeds of hens - their sizes, shapes and colours.
- Alternatively, research about different types of snakes.

Maths

Time:

- Discuss ways to describe time (e.g., breakfast time, lunch time, etc.)
Sequence a list of daily activities. Which comes first, second, third, fourth, etc?

Spatial Awareness and Size:

- Crawl through boxes, under tables and chairs draped with sheets to experience difference sized holes and openings. Is it easier/harder to crawl through larger/smaller holes?
- Compare the sizes of different bird eggs (e.g., emu, hen, sparrow, etc).

Number:

- Use 12 plastic eggs, or 12 pebbles for eggs. How many ways can you group the eggs - e.g., in ones, twos, threes, fours, sixs and a set of twelve.



The Snake Game: Draw a huge snake on a concrete footpath.

Divide the snake into 30 sections and write numbers within each section. Each section of the snake must be big enough to hop in.

To play:

The objective is to hop right around the snake on one foot only, starting at the tail and finishing at the head, without stopping or standing on the lines. Any player who changes feet or steps on a line, forfeits the rest of his/her turn. Players take turns to hop on the numbers, reading each number as they go. After successfully hopping to the centre, a player selects a number on the snake and writes his/her name across that section. No other player may land on it for the rest of the game but must hop over it. The game continues until all numbers have been claimed and named.

Players then need to count how many numbers they 'own'.

The winner is the players with the most section in their name.

Measurement:

- Make a 'snake' out by cutting a length of wool. Use the wool to measure distance (e.g., how many 'snakes' from one side of the room to the other? How many 'snakes' high are you?)

Moral, Social and Emotional Development

Make a chart with two columns on it. On the first side, list all the things Sneaky Snake did that he shouldn't have. On the second side, list the things Sneaky Snake should have done.

Sneaky Snake did...	Sneaky Snake should have...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• stole• took without asking• didn't respect other people's belongings• took what wasn't his• acted greedily• didn't think about the feelings of others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• asked first• left other people's property alone• shared• thought of how his actions make others feel

Share some of the cake/biscuits, cooked with eggs, with others.

Physical Development

Gross Motor Skills:

- Hop and play the snake game.
- Crawl like a snake, shuffle like a hen, walk like a farmer wearing gumboots through thick, sticky mud.

Art

- Paint hard boiled eggs with paint brushes and food colouring.
- Crayon resistant painting on egg shaped paper.
- Make hens out of boxes and 'junk'. Make a nest out of dried grass. Make clay eggs and paint them.
- Make snakes out of old stockings stuffed with newspaper.
- Make a mural with hens, eggs, Sneaky Snake, and Farmer Blake. Add speech bubbles.