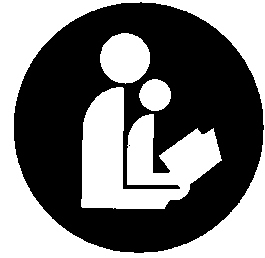


# Picture It, Dads!



## Home Activities For *The Gruffalo*



Home Activities  
The Gruffalo

Activity #1 Nursery Rhyme

Children love to act out this rhyme over and over (So be prepared!). You can add your own places to go and things to see and come up with actions to go along with them. Be as creative as you want.



**We're Going on a Bear Hunt**

(Baskwill, J. & Whitman, P. 1986)

Leader: We're going on a bear hunt. (*Slap hands together.*)

Echo: We're going on a bear hunt.

Leader: Are you ready?

Echo: Are you ready?

Leader: Let's go! (Forward motion with arm and finger to point direction.)

Response: Let's go!

(Begin to tap thighs with hands in a walking beat and maintain this throughout, unless otherwise directed.)

Leader: (Cup hand over eyes in searching motion.) I see some tall grass.

Echo: I see some tall grass.

Leader: Can't go over it. (Make over motion)

Echo: Can't go over it.

Leader: Can't go under it. (Make under motion)

Echo: Can't go under it.

Leader: We'll have to go through it. (*Brush palms together to make swishing noise.*)

Echo: We'll have to go through it.

*Resume walking sound.*

Leader: I see a bridge.

Echo: I see a bridge.

Leader: Can't go under it.

Echo: Can't go under it.

Leader: Can't go around it.  
Echo: Can't go around it.  
Leader: We'll have to go over it. (*Thump chest.*)  
Echo: We'll have to go over it.

*Resume walking sound.*

Leader: I see a river. (Hug arms as if chilly)  
Echo: I see a river.  
Leader: Can't go over it.  
Echo: Can't go over it.  
Leader: Can't go under it.  
Echo: Can't go under it.  
Leader: We'll have to swim across it. (*Make swimming motions with arms.*)  
Echo: We'll have to swim across it.



*Resume walking sound.*

Leader: I see a lot of mud.  
Echo: I see a lot of mud.  
Leader: Can't go under it.  
Echo: Can't go under it.  
Leader: Can't go around it.  
Echo: Can't go around it.  
Leader: We'll have to go through it. (*Make squishing sounds with your voice and palms of hands*)

*Resume walking sound.*

Leader: I see a t-a-a-a-ll tree. (Look way up with had cupped over brow)  
Echo: I see a t-a-a-a-ll tree.  
Leader: Can't go over it.  
Echo: Can't go over it.  
Leader: Can't go under it.  
Echo: Can't go under it.  
Leader: We'll have to climb up it. (*Climb up with arms making grunting noises.*)  
Echo: We'll have to climb up it.

Leader: No bears. (Look around then climb done)

Echo: No bears.

*Resume walking sound.*

Leader: I see a da-a-ark cave. (Lowered voice)

Echo: I see a da-a-ark cave.

Leader: Can't go over it.

Echo: Can't go over it.

Leader: Can't go under it.

Echo: Can't go under it.

Leader: We'll have to g-go in. (*Scared voice; slowly slap knees.*)

Echo: We'll have to g-go in.

Leader: What's that? (Whispering)

Echo: What's that?

Leader: I see two eyes. (*Point to eyes.*)

Echo: I see two eyes.

Leader: I see two ears. (*Point to ears.*)

Echo: I see two ears.

Leader: I see a black nose. (*Point to nose.*)

Echo: I see a black nose.

Leader: I see a BIG mouth. (*Make a big mouth with hands.*)

Echo: I see a BIG mouth.

Leader: It's a...

Echo: It's a...

Leader: BEAR!!!

Echo: BEAR!!!

Leader: Let's get out of here. (*Quickly run backward through all the actions to "return home". Remember to do the running sound by tapping thighs with hands quickly*)

Leader: Whew! We made it!



## Activity #2 Recipe: Gruffalo Crumble



You can make *Gruffalo Crumble* at home using this simple recipe!

### Ingredients

4-6 medium apples	1/2 cup flour
3/4 cup rolled oats	1 teaspoon cinnamon
3/4 cup brown sugar	1/2 cup butter

Pare apples and slice thin. Arrange slices in a greased baking dish. Combine dry ingredients and mix well. Cut in butter. Sprinkle mixture over sliced apples. Bake in moderate oven, 350° for 35-40 minutes. Serve warm with whipped cream or ice cream.

### Tips and Suggestions

Children can begin "helping" you in the kitchen at a very young age. Have your child collect ingredients, crack eggs, pour flour, stir and mix. Cooking together provides valuable time together, as well as an opportunity for teachable moments; learning to follow directions, basic math skills, cleaning up, and nutrition to name a few. In addition, it's just lots of fun!

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

Safety first! Keep young children away from a hot stove, oven, sharp knives and cheese graters.

Allow your young cook to pour the ingredients into a bowl; flour, sugar, eggs etc. (Remember to turn the mixer off first.)

Cracking eggs can be a challenge for small cooks. Allow them to practice a bit by cracking the eggs into a separate bowl at first. Then you can remove any shells before adding the eggs to the remaining ingredients.

Use simple recipes like this one at first.

Expect a mess...spills will happen. Use the opportunity to teach that clean up is part of cooking. And remember *pour on the praise!*

### Activity #3: Draw Your Own Gruffalo

This partner drawing activity helps your child's imagination and teaches them new words.

#### Materials

You will need some paper (any type will do - even newspaper) and crayons or markers in different colours.

#### How to start

Sit beside your child so you can share the same paper and the crayons or markers. Work together to draw a Gruffalo.



Start by drawing the head, then the body, then legs and arms.

Take turns with your child. You may need to give hints as you go.

Try to be as descriptive as you can by saying: "I am going to give the Gruffalo a big, furry head. What are you going to give him/her?" (Your Gruffalo can be either!). This helps your child to learn new words.

If your child responds in a single word, (For example, "Nose.") turn it into a sentence (For example, "I'm going to give my Gruffalo a great, big nose.") and encourage your child to repeat your sentence ("Now, you say it.")

Continue adding features such as teeth, claws, nose, etc. until you and your child are satisfied with the creation. Remember, praise goes a long way towards building your child's confidence.

#### Tips and Suggestions

Some children just want to add a few features, as they are more interested in making lots of Gruffaloes. Others like to add lots and lots of different features. There is no right or wrong way to do this activity. Take your lead from your child.

Don't worry if your child is reluctant at first to repeat your sentence or to draw or doesn't get the whole sentence exactly as you said it. This takes practice. Do the activity again, at another time, using the Gruffalo or another imaginary creature.

Eventually your child will catch on. The important thing to keep in mind is to be creative, have fun and be patient!

## Activity #4: Oh, No! Not the Gruffalo! Card Game

This card game is played like the well-known children's card game *Old Maid*. In the traditional game, you don't want to be left with the *Old Maid* card as the last card. In this version, you don't want to be left holding the *Gruffalo*!



### Materials

For this game you need a deck of cards. Any deck will do, but we have provided you with a special "Gruffalo" deck.

### How to play

Remove all the face cards from the deck and set them aside. Split the remaining cards (including the *Gruffalo* card) evenly between the players.

Each player spreads their cards face up and picks out all the pairs. Put the pairs face-up in the centre of the table. (You can help with this step - no hiding necessary!)

Each player takes the cards that are left in their own pile and shuffles them to make their hand, not letting the other players see. (Tip: For young children it is sometimes easier if they turn their cards over on the table and mix them up ("shuffle them") on the flat surface.)

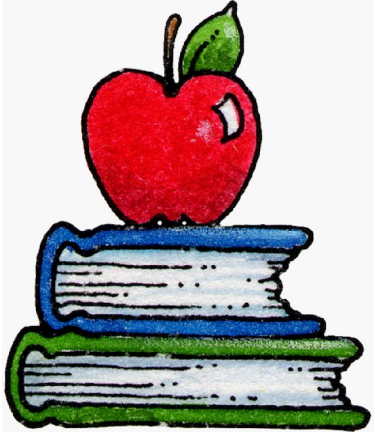
Player to the left of the dealer (if more than 2 players), goes first. They draw 1 card from the player on their left. If the card they choose matches one in their hand they add this pair to those in the centre of the table. If it does not match, they keep it in their hand.

Play continues from player to player until all the pairs have been made. One person will be left holding the *Gruffalo* card, which ends the game.

(Note: During play, the *Gruffalo* card will change hands a number of times. Hands may be shuffled at any time. This allows the player holding the *Gruffalo* to "hide" it.)

### Tips and Suggestions

You can play with as few or as many cards as you like as long as they are all pairs. Keep the game light-hearted so children won't feel badly if they are left with the *Gruffalo*. Also, if *you* are the winner, model good sportsmanship and do not tease!



## Re-Reading Favourite Stories

Reading to your child is one of the best things you can do with your child. When you and your child are snuggled up for a good read, something special happens bringing you closer together.

Reading aloud at bedtime gives children a sense of comfort and security and is the time many parents set aside for reading to children. However, don't pigeonhole reading aloud at bedtime. You will find that story favourites will find their way into other parts of your day - when in the car, on a walk, having breakfast or getting ready for bed. Favourite lines, names of characters, or connections to a story brought on when you see an object that was in the story, will creep into your day-to-day activities. Grab that favourite *Gruffalo*, *Where's Spot?* or any other well-loved book and use it to brighten the scene, shorten the time, capture your child's attention. Is your car travel a bit hairy or are your kids squirmy at the restaurant? Take along a good book. Going on an outing? Find a comfy spot along the way, sit down and read! Wherever you are, no matter what your child's mood, the comfort and relaxation of story time are right there at hand if you have a book and you take a moment to read it aloud.

A lot of books you read to your child are going to be a little less than fascinating to you. Each child will have his/her tiresome favourites that you will be asked to read over and over. Most favourites have some special appeal: they are about an experience your child can identify with (i.e. being scared, lonely, etc.) or appeal to your child's sense of humour or special interest (i.e. animals, trucks, etc.). Your job is to give these books your best effort *whenever* you read them while still introducing your child to new stories.

A little variety in the story reading ritual may keep you from going stale. Here are a few suggestions:

**Change the scene:** At bedtime, set up the sheet like a tent (you are the pole) and read the story in bed under the sheet by the glow of a flashlight. Any time or place - turn out the lights and read by candlelight. Read outdoors, in the backseat of the car, on a blanket in the backyard. **Caution:** Pre-schoolers and scary nighttime stories do not go together well. They can't always tell yet what is real and what is not (even though you tell them) so keep scary stories for



daytime reading or follow them with a story that is more comforting and reassuring.

**Include sound effects and voices:** Add your own noises and sound effects to stories (if a door opens make it creak, if someone is eating make chewing or slurping noises). Change your voice and read each part in the character's voice.

**Assign parts:** Give your child something to say when his character speaks. For example, if he/she is Baby Bear he can say "Boohoo." before you read the line in the story. Pretty soon your child will be chiming in with the actual lines from the story.

Above all, remember this should be an *enjoyable* time. The more enthusiasm you bring to your reading, the more fun both you and your child will have.

The *Gruffalo* is one of those stories that appeals to a child's imagination. Its use of rhyme and a character (the little mouse) with whom children can identify are a large part of its appeal. Check with your librarian or children's bookstore for some of the books from the list below:

#### **More Books About Using Your Imagination**

*Where the Wild Things Are* By Maurice Sendak

*Harold and the Purple Crayon* By Crockett Johnson

*Not A Box* by Antoinette Portis

#### **More Books By Julia Donaldson, the author of *The Gruffalo***

*The Gruffalo's Child* By Julia Donaldson

*The Snail and the Whale* By Julia Donaldson

*A Squash and a Squeeze* By Julia Donaldson

*Room on the Broom* By Julia Donaldson

*The Smartest Giant in Town* By Julia Donaldson

*Monkey Puzzle* By Julia Donaldson

*Charlie Cook's Favourite Book* By Julia Donaldson

#### **Website**

Visit the *Gruffalo's* Official Website at

<http://www.gruffalo.com/>

