



SG5



15-20 minutes

THE THREE LITTLE PIGS – Symbol theatre with substitute shapes



To introduce substitute shapes and kinaesthetic procedures as supports for cognitive development

To help children understand what the substitute shapes represent, and how to use them to represent aspects of the story

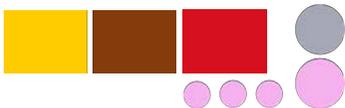
To develop the ability to hold in mind the characters and events of a story



- ❖ Episodes 2, 3 and 4 of the Episode Pictures from SG2



- ❖ The substitute shapes for the main objects and characters in the story



- ❖ 'The Three Little Pigs' storybook



- ❖ A few favourite teddies and/or dolls
- ❖ A small tray for each child to keep their set of shapes in (only necessary if you have more than one child doing this session)



What Can This Substitute Shape Be? Show your child episodes 2, 3 and 4 of the Episode Pictures, in which the Three Little Pigs' houses first appear. Talk about the three houses, and about how strong each one is compared with the others.

Now take the 3 coloured rectangles and talk about which one would be the best one to use as a substitute for the house of straw (yellow), which one for the house of sticks (brown), and which one for the house of bricks (red). Establish and ground the analogy between the houses and their substitute shapes rectangles (because the houses look a bit like rectangles, and are all the same size because the pigs made their houses the same size – yellow for the straw, brown for the sticks and red for the bricks). Ask your child to help you put the symbols for houses on the table in front of you, in the same order that they appear in the story, from left to right (yellow, brown, red).

Who Can This Substitute Shape Be? Review who the main characters are in the story.

Then show your child the coloured circles and ask them to help you choose the best one to use as a substitute for each character (big, pink circle – Mother Pig; small, pink circles – Three Little Pigs; big, grey circle - Wolf). Show your child the big, grey circle and ask one of them: *Who can this circle be?* Continue until you have agreed substitute shapes for all the characters. Establish and ground the analogy between the characters and their substitute shapes. The Wolf is a big, grey circle because the Wolf is big and its fur is grey; the Mother Pig is a big, pink circle because pigs are pink, and mothers are bigger than children etc.). Discuss the order in which each animal first appears in the story, and lay out the substitute shapes accordingly.

'Symbol Theatre' – Modelling Using Kinaesthetic Procedures: Give your child the full set of substitute shapes. Tell them: *We are going to bring the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' to life!* Explain that you will tell the story and whenever you mention the Wolf they should hold up the big, grey circle; whenever you mention Mother Pig, the big, pink circle; a small, pink circle for each of the Little Pigs; and, yellow, brown or red rectangles for the straw, the stick and the brick house respectively.

Tell the story slowly, to give your child time to react to each scene. Encourage them to hold up the relevant substitute shapes as the story unfolds, supporting and reminding them as necessary.

Once they have grasped the idea, tell the story again – this time with an audience of other family members or teddies/dolls. This time, ask them to not only hold up the substitute shapes but also to join in with repeated refrains and the parts of the story that they already know, and move the substitute shapes in a way that illustrates the actions of the characters, e.g. the straw and brick houses can 'fall over', the little pigs can 'bounce' up and down as they build, or move rapidly backwards and forwards as they run away, and so on. If you have more than one child doing this, they can each take different roles and then swap over.



Your child can choose appropriate substitute shapes for a story character or object.
Your child can show the corresponding substitute shape when characters/objects are mentioned.
Your child can move the substitute shapes appropriately to illustrate the actions of the characters.



KEY TO LEARNING
@HOME

Cut out each substitute shape separately - exactly around the edges leaving no white showing.
Every child you are doing this session with will need their own set of substitute shapes for the 'Symbol Theatre' part of the session, so you will need to print and cut out more copies accordingly.



Cut out each substitute shape separately - exactly around the edges leaving no white showing.
Every child you are doing this session with will need their own set of substitute shapes for the 'Symbol Theatre' part of the session, so you will need to print and cut out more copies accordingly.

