

The Little Red Hen

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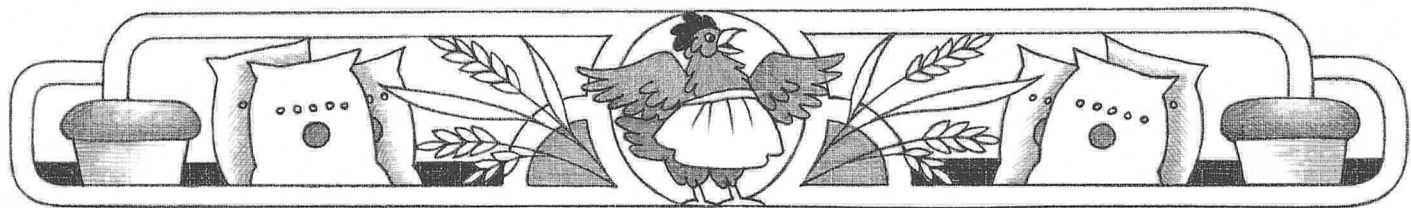
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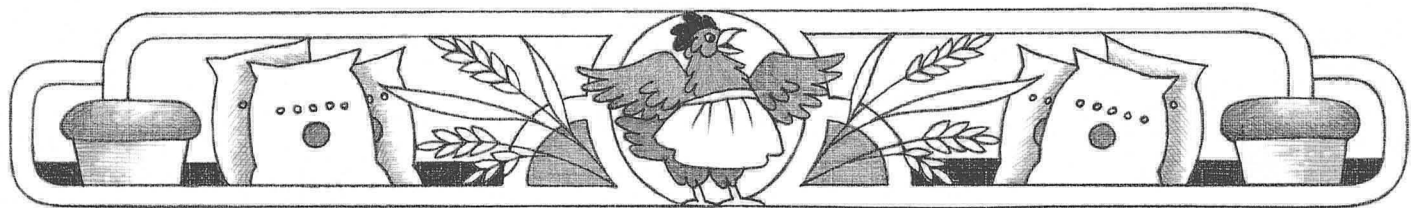
MUSIC

Discuss with the children that a musical is different than a play because it is a story that is set to music. Begin regularly playing the music for the children. You'll soon notice them singing the words spontaneously at play. Practice the words during circle time or while waiting in line. Play the accompaniment CD during free play. It's fun for children to move to the music as they do their daily work. It will be easy for them to learn and perform the words and music if you introduce and play the songs in a natural way.

Simple instruments add to the fun and learning. Children learn about rhythm and percussion as they tap their toes, clap their hands, and slap their knees. Make simple instruments to use for the performance. Put a few pebbles in a cornmeal or oatmeal box and shake it like a rattle. You can also use the box as a drum.

Let the children create their own instrumental music using their handmade instruments. Let them create baking music for the hen, or scary music to be played when the fox is seen. See the Related Resources section for books containing more music ideas.





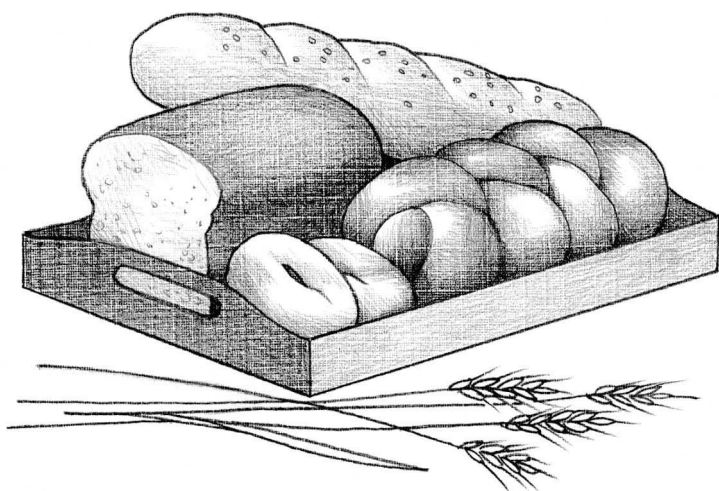
SOCIAL STUDIES

Bread, a central “Ingredient” to the story, is a universal food and is found from Tibet to Nigeria, from the Middle East to Asia. Varieties include everything from the corn breads of the Americas to the soft wheat breads of Europe. Let the children discuss different kinds of breads. When you talk about a particular bread, find its origin on your classroom map.

Bring different breads and toppings to class and share them with the children. Middle-Eastern pita/pocket bread is delightful. It can be filled with peanut butter, cheese, or fresh vegetables for a snack or lunch. Bagels can be spread with cream cheese.

Explore Native American culture while stone-grinding some corn. Talk about corn or maize as a grass which humans cultivate and

use to feed themselves and their animals. Talk about life on a farm compared to life in a city. Visit a local bread factory to see how multi-batch bread is baked and marketed.



SOCIO-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Little Red Hen is a classic story for discussing cooperation and justice. Ask the children to decide what was fair or not fair in the story. Ask them to define cooperation in the story and in the classroom.

Help the children evaluate the performance preparation in terms of cooperation. Did everyone help? Was the show better, easier, or more fun because everyone worked together? Talk about the characters in the story. Are they brave? lazy? hardworking? kind? cooperative? selfish? responsible? Talk about the characteristics of a good friend or neighbor.

Let the class write a different ending to the

story. This activity always produces divergent thinking and helps the young child to realize that he or she has the power and responsibility of choice.

Talk about the differences between fantasy and real life. The heroine of this story is a hen. The other characters are also animals. Is this a true story? Do these animals behave like people or like animals?



GROSS MOTOR ACTIVITIES AND DRAMATIC PLAY

As you play the *Who Will Help Me?* songs, let the children pretend to plant seeds, cut grain, and so on. Play “follow the leader,” encouraging the leaders to experiment with different farm animals’ movements. The children will stretch their bodies and imaginations as they slink like a fox or roll in the mud like a pig. When the children are tired, they can stretch in the sun like the fat cat.

As you line up for different activities throughout the day, have each child join the line as a different animal. Use a variety of adjectives such as *slink*, *skulk*, and *luxuriate* to describe the movements.

Set up a farm community in your classroom. Include space for a farmhouse, a mill, a field, a barn, and a country store. Encourage children to act out the roles of a farm family, each child choosing different “chores” to perform.

Arrange the Home Living area to simulate the pig’s home, the fox’s den, or the chicks’ yard. Find out about the different kinds of animal homes and ways of life. Dramatize the daily activities of each animal.

