

Wow! Said the owl

This storybook supports curiosity and exploration of colour. For children who like to colour match and sort the story can add an imaginative and creative element. It can be useful to extend this further using the sensory play ideas detailed below.

Cueing in

Choose an appropriate prop from the story as your cueing in tool e.g. a feather, an owl puppet, toy owl, a real or fabric leaf. A picture from the book or a visual symbol could also be used. Show this each time you plan to listen to or watch the story. Something that's easy to hold can be useful for children who may like to hold onto an object throughout the story.



Accessibility



Consider the best way to support the child to access the story.

A board book has easier pages for a child to turn independently. Using ribbon tabs can also help with page turning and you could match the ribbon tabs to the colours within the story. Sturdy coloured card tabs could be taped down the page edges, like an address book, to promote independence with page turning. For a child who may not be motivated by books, try watching one of the videos of the story from the list below. You could also try an audiobook version.

Video

In this [video](#) from Storytime Hullabaloo Hi the story is simply read aloud accompanied by illustrations from the book. This [video version](#) read by the author shifts attention between reading from the book, adding anecdotes about the owl, and showing clear illustrations from the story.

In [this video](#) the author takes us on a journey, whilst reading the story, as he walks through an art exhibition based on the book. The words from the book are captioned on the screen.

Communication and Language

This story has a repetitive phrase, 'WOW! Said the owl' which can encourage children to join in. This phrase could be recorded on a BIGmack switch or a Talking Tin to include children who may be pre-verbal or reluctant talkers. Using natural gesture/Makaton or telling the story using props and visuals could help make connections for the child between key words and the objects. [This video](#) could give you some ideas for how to include Makaton in the story. You don't need to use all the signs, just pick out the ones you feel confident using.



A Sensory Touch

Using sensory materials with the story can help children engage and enhance the experience. This video from [Wolverhampton Special Needs Early Years Service](#) gives lots of ideas for materials to bring the story alive and even shows you how to use them page by page. Other ideas could include:

- Creating night and day environments. Try looking at [Sensory umbrellas](#) for ideas.
- Recording real owl sounds onto a Talking Tin, BIGmack switch or other voice recorder.
- Using an 'Elefun' game or a battery fan to add movement to paper butterflies.



More ideas to try

- Create a velcro storyboard using key pictures to retell the story.
- Try rainbow parachute games to add a movement activity to the story session.



Finish

Remember to prepare the child to understand that the activity is about to end. Use phrases like 'last one', 'one more, then finish' or something similar. If props are used, involve the child in putting them back into the box/bag they came from. If you feel the child is giving you cues that they are ready to finish earlier, use your finish routine to support this.