**Jack and the beanstalk**

Jack and the beanstalk is a lovely story that you can get a variety of different learning out of. This ranges all the way from size (maths) to growing (knowledge and understanding of the world). Throughout all the activities there are a lot of opportunities to extend your child’s language through discussion, experiences, and using new words. Below is a list of activities you might like to try. These are only suggestions, you might want to do your own.

Activities

* Beans game

This activity is lovely to do outside or inside. Your child should be walking around in any direction. You say one of the commands and the child does that actions (introduce these actions before the game starts.

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| command | action |
| Jumping bean | Jumping around the room |
| Running bean | Running around the room or on the spot |
| Broad bean | Stretch out into a star shape |
| Baked bean | Lay on the floor in a star shape |
| Jelly bean | Make your body all wobbly like jelly |
| String bean | Make yourself as long a tall as possible |
| Full of beans | Dance around |

You can also create your own actions.

* Read the story or watch the animated story with your child. Talk about what could happen next.
* Encourage older children (when they are familiar with the story) to re tell it you could use the book or picture cards to help.
* Make lollypop stick puppets by drawing (or printing out) pictures of the main characters and attaching the to lolly sticks. You could use these to make a puppet show.

If you don’t have lolly sticks you could draw pictures of the characters and attach them to food tins so you can do the puppet show on a table or kitchen surface.

* If you have chalk and access to outside you could draw around your child and then they could draw around you. They can then have lots of fun decorating their outline as jack and yours as the giant. Talk about size which one is bigger which one is smaller.

Or alternatively you could draw around each other’s hands.

* You could measure everyone in the house. Talk about who is the tallest and who is the shortest. If you don’t have a tape measure you could use string.
* Use instruments to make the sounds that the characters might make. E.g. quiet sounds for jack or loud sounds for the giant. If you don’t have instruments have a look in your kitchen cupboards. You could use pots, pans, wooden spoons etc.
* You could act out the story using big movements e.g. fling your arms out to throw the beans out the window (don’t forget to use the other arm to shut the window afterwards), pretend to climb on the spot to go up the beanstalk etc. let’s be creative.
* If you have access to the outside, then you could get some leaves and do leaf rubbing.
* You could also collect bits around your garden and make a collage.
* Older children could draw a simple map of where jack has been e.g. his house, the market, the beanstalk and the giants castle.
* If you have seeds you could grow seeds and talk about what you see happening each day.
* Play a game inside of ‘can you find’. The adult picks an object and says can you find something bigger than this, the child then tries to find something bigger. This then continues until you can not find anything bigger. You could also star with a big item and ask them to find something smaller. Your child could then take a turn choosing an object and giving the instructions. Who managed to find more bigger or smaller items you or your child (lets count them!).
* If you have playdough you could make the characters.
* You can make the giants face. Draw around a plate on a bit of pater and ask your child to draw in the nose, ears etc. older children could try and label these features.
* If you like baking, you could make gingerbread characters e.g. big gingerbread men for the giant and little gingerbread men for jack.
* You could draw and design the giants castle.
* If you have Lego or other objects that can be the same size you could use them to measure things e.g. draw a giant foot and jacks foot, how many Lego blocks does it take to get from one side of the block to the other. How many more blocks have you used with the giant’s foot (older children)?

You could also do this with beanstalks. Draw different hight beanstalks which is the tallest, smallest etc. how many blocks have you used?

* Describe the characters. What do they look like?

See web page links below

**There are some links below that we think might be useful. We encourage parents to watch these links first before showing your child.**

Bean yoga/ game/exercise

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvGwpXRygPU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCKEdDEr82k>

growing a bean and other things

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w77zPAtVTuI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTRW2Cf9U2U>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/makes/plant-pots>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/makes/dotf-vegetable-scraps?collection=national-gardening-week>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/down-on-the-farm-grow-your-own-article>

twinkl

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/search?term=jack+and+the+beanstalk>

you can get some lovely resources from this web page and at the moment you can sign up for free.