

room on the broom activities

room on the broom activities can spark imaginative play and learning for children of all ages, making storytime a truly magical experience. From crafting charming characters to engaging in exciting outdoor adventures, there are countless ways to bring Julia Donaldson's beloved tale to life. This comprehensive guide explores a wide range of engaging **room on the broom activities**, perfect for preschoolers, kindergarteners, and even slightly older children. We'll delve into creative crafts, fun games, educational opportunities, and sensory play ideas that will have your little ones flying high with excitement. Discover how to extend the learning beyond the book and foster a deeper appreciation for reading and imaginative storytelling through these delightful **room on the broom craft ideas** and more.

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Room on the Broom Craft Ideas

Bringing the characters and elements of "Room on the Broom" to life through crafts is a fantastic way to engage young children. These hands-on activities not only enhance creativity but also reinforce their understanding of the story's key players and objects. Simple materials can transform into magical creations, making craft time a highlight for any child who loves the book.

Crafting the Witch and Her Companions

Creating the witch and her animal friends offers a wonderful opportunity for fine motor skill development. Children can use various mediums to represent

the characters. For the witch, a simple paper bag puppet can be decorated with yarn for hair, felt for a hat, and googly eyes. The cat can be made from black construction paper, perhaps with pipe cleaner whiskers. For the dog, bird, and frog, felt shapes or painted cardboard cutouts work beautifully. Encourage children to discuss the characteristics of each animal as they create them, reinforcing their understanding of the story.

Building a Magical Broomstick

A magical broomstick is central to the story, and crafting one can be a fun group activity. Use a cardboard tube or a sturdy stick as the base. For the bristles, strips of brown paper or raffia can be attached to one end with glue or tape. Children can then decorate the broomstick with glitter, stickers, or even small drawings of the characters who ride on it. This activity also provides a prop for imaginative play later on.

Creating a Potion Bottle and Ingredients

The witch's potion is another iconic element. Children can decorate empty plastic bottles or jars to resemble potion containers. They can use paint, glitter glue, or colored tissue paper to give them an enchanted look. To add to the sensory experience, create "potion ingredients" from various craft supplies. Small pompoms can be "dragon's scales," dried beans can be "toadstools," and colorful beads can represent "fairy dust." This allows for open-ended play and encourages children to invent their own magical recipes.

Designing Wanted Posters

A humorous part of the story involves the king's wanted posters for the witch. Children can create their own wanted posters for the witch or her animal friends. Provide large paper, crayons, markers, and collage materials. They can draw the characters and write "WANTED" at the top, perhaps listing silly "crimes" or rewards, just like in the book. This activity promotes literacy and creative writing skills.

Sensory Play and Fine Motor Skill Activities

Sensory play is crucial for early childhood development, and integrating it with "Room on the Broom" themes provides a rich learning experience. These activities stimulate children's senses while refining their fine motor skills, essential for tasks like writing and dressing themselves.

"Swamp" Sensory Bin

Create a "swamp" sensory bin using green-dyed rice, water beads, or even just water and green food coloring as the base. Add plastic frogs, toy bugs, small sticks, and smooth stones. Children can use scoops and containers to explore the textures and practice pouring and scooping. Include small figurines of the dog, bird, and frog for them to find and "rescue."

"Cloud Dough" or Playdough Creations

Whip up a batch of cloud dough (flour and oil) or use green playdough. Children can mold the dough into broomsticks, cloud shapes, or the characters from the story. Add glitter for a magical sparkle. For finer motor control, provide tools like rollers, cookie cutters shaped like stars or animals, and plastic knives for cutting and shaping.

"Sticky Spiderweb" Fine Motor Challenge

Hang yarn or string in a web-like pattern between two chairs or on a doorway. Attach lightweight objects like cotton balls, pompoms, or small toy spiders to the web. Children have to use tweezers or their fingers to carefully remove the items without disturbing the web too much. This is an excellent exercise for developing pincer grasp and hand-eye coordination.

Sequencing Cards and Puzzles

Print out or draw simple pictures representing key events in the "Room on the Broom" story. Children can then arrange these cards in the correct order to retell the narrative. Alternatively, create simple jigsaw puzzles of the book's illustrations. These activities enhance memory, comprehension, and logical thinking.

Outdoor and Gross Motor Room on the Broom Games

Taking the magic of "Room on the Broom" outdoors allows for energetic fun and the development of gross motor skills. These games encourage movement, coordination, and imaginative role-playing in a larger space.

"Ride the Broomstick" Race

Using toy broomsticks or sturdy cardboard tubes, children can participate in "broomstick" races. They can run while holding the broomstick, or for a more advanced challenge, try balancing it. Set up a simple obstacle course with

cones to weave around or hoops to jump through, simulating a flight through the air. This activity promotes balance, agility, and speed.

"Fetch the Lost Items" Scavenger Hunt

Hide small objects representing items lost from the broomstick – a bow, a wand, a hat, a helmet, a flower. Give children a list or pictures of the items to find. This turns into a fun scavenger hunt, encouraging observation and quick movement. For added excitement, have them "return" the lost items to a designated "witch's cauldron" (a bucket or bin).

"Flying High" Parachute Play

If you have a play parachute, use it to mimic the "room on the broom" theme. Have children hold the edges of the parachute and run underneath as it's lifted, creating a sense of flying. You can also place lightweight toys on top of the parachute and have children shake it gently to make them "fly" or "fall off."

"Dragon Attack" Obstacle Course

Set up a series of challenges that mimic the dragon encounter. Children can crawl under "caves" (tables draped with blankets), jump over "rivers" (blue mats or chalk lines), and then pretend to "defeat" the dragon (a large stuffed toy) by giving it a gentle tap or throwing soft balls at it. This encourages problem-solving and physical exertion.

Educational Room on the Broom Activities

Beyond entertainment, "Room on the Broom" offers numerous opportunities to weave in educational concepts. These activities help children learn while they play, making learning enjoyable and memorable.

Counting and Number Recognition

As children read the story, prompt them to count the animals on the broomstick or the number of times certain words appear. You can create counting mats with pictures of the animals and have children place the correct number of tokens on them. Sorting and counting games involving animal figurines are also effective.

Letter Recognition and Phonics

Focus on the initial sounds of the animals' names (C for cat, D for dog, B for bird, F for frog). Create letter matching games where children match uppercase letters to lowercase letters or find objects that start with the same sound as an animal's name. Writing the animals' names or the word "broom" can also be incorporated for older children.

Rhyming Words and Syllables

Julia Donaldson is known for her rhyming stories. Point out the rhyming words in the book and have children brainstorm other words that rhyme. Clap out the syllables in the characters' names or other key words from the story. This activity builds phonological awareness, a crucial pre-reading skill.

Science Exploration: Weather and Gravity

Discuss the different types of weather mentioned or implied in the story (windy, rainy). Conduct simple weather experiments like making a "rain cloud" in a jar or testing how different objects fall through the air (demonstrating gravity). The concept of buoyancy can also be explored by seeing which items float or sink in water, relating to the broomstick being overloaded.

Room on the Broom Role-Playing and Dramatic Play

Encouraging role-playing allows children to step into the shoes of their favorite characters, enhancing their social skills, language development, and understanding of narrative.

Setting Up a "Witch's House" Corner

Designate a corner of a room as the witch's house. Provide a toy cauldron, a broom, a pretend wand, and a variety of props like scarves, hats, and jars for mixing "potions." Children can take turns being the witch, the animals, or even the dragon, acting out scenes from the book.

Costume and Prop Creation

Encourage children to create simple costumes or props to enhance their role-playing. A black hat and a cape can transform them into the witch. Animal ear headbands or tails can represent the cat, dog, bird, and frog. Providing these materials empowers them to fully immerse themselves in the characters.

Puppet Show Performance

Using the paper bag puppets or felt figures created earlier, children can put on their own "Room on the Broom" puppet show. They can work together to retell the story or create new adventures for the characters. This encourages collaboration, public speaking, and storytelling skills.

Story Sequencing and Re-enactment

After reading the story multiple times, guide children to act out the events in the correct order. This reinforces their understanding of the plot structure and allows them to physically engage with the narrative. They can take turns being different characters and performing the actions as they occur in the book.

Planning Your Room on the Broom Celebration

A "Room on the Broom" themed party or special afternoon can be a wonderfully memorable event for young children. Combining several of the activities mentioned above can create a cohesive and exciting experience.

Decorations and Ambiance

Transform your space into a magical forest or a witch's dwelling. Use green and brown streamers, cardboard cutouts of trees and mushrooms, and fairy lights. Hang pictures from the book or children's own artwork. A "flying broomstick" hanging from the ceiling can be a central decoration.

Food and Snacks

Prepare themed snacks that are fun and easy for little hands. "Witch's finger" pretzels dipped in green candy melts, "frog" grapes, or "dragon scale" crackers are great ideas. A "potion" punch (green juice or lemonade) can add to the theme.

Activity Stations

Set up different stations for the various activities. Have a craft station with all the materials for making broomsticks or puppets, a sensory bin area, an outdoor game space, and a quiet corner for reading or storytelling. This allows children to move freely and engage with activities at their own pace.

Story Time and Sing-Alongs

Dedicate time for a reading of "Room on the Broom," perhaps with expressive voices and actions. Include songs inspired by the story or simple rhyming games. This brings everyone together and reinforces the central theme.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some easy crafts for preschoolers related to 'Room on the Broom'?

Simple crafts include making broomstick puppets from brown paper bags and popsicle sticks, creating 'witch hat' cones decorated with stickers and glitter, or cutting out and decorating paper witch hats and cat shapes for a collage.

How can I create a 'Room on the Broom' themed sensory bin for toddlers?

Fill a bin with dry black beans or pasta as the base. Add small toy animals representing the characters (witch, cat, dog, frog, bird), tiny broomstick props (like miniature brushes), and some green pipe cleaners for the frog. Include scoops and containers for pouring and imaginative play.

What are fun outdoor activities inspired by 'Room on the Broom'?

Organize a 'Find the Lost Items' scavenger hunt, similar to how the animals fall off the broom. You could also set up a 'flying' station with blankets or sheets where children pretend to fly on broomsticks, or play 'pass the broom' like a relay race.

How can I make 'Room on the Broom' snack ideas that are both fun and healthy?

Create 'witch finger' pretzels dipped in green candy melts with an almond for a nail. You can also make 'broomstick' fruit skewers with grapes and melon chunks, or 'frog' sandwiches cut into circles with cucumber slices for eyes.

What are engaging reading comprehension questions for 'Room on the Broom' for young children?

Ask questions like: 'Why did the witch keep losing her friends?' 'Which animal was the bravest and why?' 'What did the witch make the broom out of in the end?' 'How did the friends help the witch defeat the dragon?'

What are some creative ways to incorporate the book's rhythm and rhyme into activities?

Encourage children to chant the repetitive phrases from the book, such as 'Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh!' or 'Down, down, down!' You can also create simple songs or rhymes about the characters and their journey.

How can I create a 'Room on the Broom' dramatic play area?

Set up a designated space with a large cardboard box painted to look like a broom or a flying machine. Add stuffed animals for the characters, scarves for cloaks, toy cauldrons, and perhaps a pretend campfire for storytelling.

What are good science or STEM activities inspired by 'Room on the Broom'?

Explore cause and effect by building simple ramps for the characters to slide down. You could also experiment with weight and balance by trying to fit different numbers of stuffed animals onto a pretend broom, or discuss concepts like air pressure and flight with simple balloon experiments.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to "Room on the Broom" activities, each using italics and with a short description:

1. *The Witch's Wonderful Ride*. This delightful story follows a young witch as she learns to fly her broomstick and encounters various magical creatures along the way. She discovers the importance of sharing and how unexpected friendships can blossom in the most unusual circumstances. The vibrant illustrations capture the joy and wonder of aerial adventures, making it perfect for read-aloud sessions.
2. *Five Friends and a Flying Carpet*. Similar to the premise of "Room on the Broom," this book tells the tale of five adventurous children who find an enchanted carpet. They embark on thrilling journeys, encountering different challenges and helping those in need. The narrative emphasizes teamwork and the power of collective action to overcome obstacles.
3. *The Little Cloud Who Couldn't Stay Put*. This whimsical tale features a small, fluffy cloud that is always drifting away from its family. One day, it meets a kind group of travelers who help it find its way home. The story explores themes of belonging and the kindness of strangers, with gentle illustrations that evoke a sense of wonder.
4. *Animals Who Needed a Lift*. This charming book showcases a variety of woodland creatures who are struggling to reach a special festival atop a

hill. One by one, they discover a solution through cooperation and a bit of clever thinking. The repetitive structure and clear message of mutual aid make it ideal for younger children.

5. The Case of the Missing Hat. A whimsical detective story where a group of animal friends must work together to find a lost item belonging to their witch neighbor. Each animal uses its unique skills to follow clues and piece together the puzzle. It encourages problem-solving and observation, with a satisfying resolution for all involved.

6. Broomstick Bonanza. This vibrant and energetic book celebrates all things related to broomsticks, from their magical properties to the fun of imaginative play. It features colorful illustrations of witches, wizards, and fantastical creatures soaring through the sky on their trusty steeds. The book inspires creativity and encourages children to dream big.

7. Sharing is Caring on a Windy Day. Set against the backdrop of a blustery day, this story highlights the importance of sharing and helping others. A group of friends discovers that by sharing their resources, they can achieve more and have more fun together. The simple narrative and positive message make it an excellent choice for teaching early social skills.

8. The Magician's Unexpected Passenger. A slightly more suspenseful tale about a magician whose performance is interrupted by an unexpected, tiny visitor on his hat. He must figure out how to accommodate his new companion while still completing his act. The book explores adaptability and the surprising joys of embracing the unexpected.

9. Four Paws, Two Feet, and a Feathered Friend. This heartwarming story focuses on the friendships that can form between different species. A dog, a cat, and a bird find themselves on an adventure together, relying on each other for support and companionship. The emphasis on diverse friendships and working together will resonate with young readers.

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