

3-5 years

Home Learning Activity Pack

## Scales and slime

### Objectives

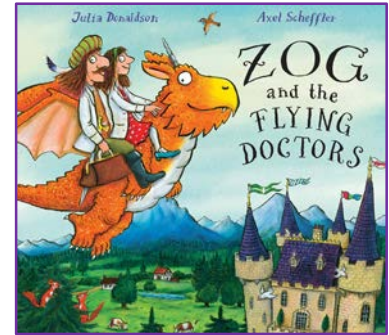
- To listen to a story, responding to what they hear
- To experiment with different materials to make objects
- To improve fine motor-skills, using scissors

### Resources

- *Zog and the Flying Doctors* by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler
- *Resource Sheet 1: Princess Pearl needs...*
- *Resource Sheet 2: Snail trails*
- Scissors
- Writing implements e.g. pencils, pens, crayons
- Paint and brushes
- A range of ingredients for making slime (you'll find loads of recipes online, [such as this one](#)) and/or materials for modelling e.g. paper, card, bubble wrap, aluminium foil, boxes and other packaging
- Sticky tape and/or glue

# Scales and slime

Age 3-5: Home Learning



## Outcomes

- Follow lines with increasing accuracy using writing implements or scissors
- Experiment with different colours, equipment and materials to create mermaid scales, unicorn horns, lion sneezes and slime

## Introduction

Show your child the front cover of *Zog and the Flying Doctors*. Ask whether they remember seeing any of these characters before – they might have met them in the previous book *Zog*. If your child is familiar with *Zog*, and knows about the characters already, can they guess what might happen in this story?

Read the story to your child. They might like to join in with a loud ‘bang-crash-thump’ each time Zog lands, or make their own actions to go with this recurring part of the story. After reading the story, ask if your child can remember what ingredients Princess Pearl had to use in her medicine for the King. If not, look back at each of the pages that show Gadabout and Zog collecting the items for Princess Pearl. Use each one as an opportunity to check your child’s understanding – do they know what a mermaid’s scale, a unicorn’s horn and slime are? What do they think each of these things would look like? What might they feel like?

## Main task

Show your child *Resource Sheet 1: Princess Pearl needs...* which lists the unusual things needed for the King’s medicine. Can they notice which one ingredient is missing (cheese)? Explain that the children are going to make the things listed on the sheet – the things which Princess Pearl needs. You can focus on just one if preferred – encourage your child to choose which one they would like to make. They can draw pictures of them in the spaces provided, first, and during this time you can set-up a making area with a range of suitable ingredients or modelling materials and equipment such as scissors, glue, sticky tape, etc.

Ask questions to lead your child into their ‘making’ task. For example, if you are making mermaid scales:

- Ask: What colour will the mermaid’s scale be? In the book it is blue, but your child might have other suggestions. Reinforce that we don’t know what colour a mermaid’s tail is, so they might like to choose their own ideas.
- Ask: What might be a good material for making the mermaid’s tail out of? Discuss the materials that you have available, for instance, paper, card, bubble wrap, or aluminium foil.

Give your child free play opportunities with the making equipment to create their own versions of Princess Pearl’s wanted items. Discuss with them why they chose particular materials and why they have made them in a particular way.

## Extension

Give your child a copy of *Resource Sheet 2: Snail trails*. Recap that Princess Pearl needed some slime for her medicine and Gadabout collected it from the mermaid's sea-snail friends. You might like to look back in the book and show them the picture of Gadabout collecting the slime. Give your child the task of following the snail trails carefully with a pencil, or a pair of scissors, just like Gadabout had to follow the sea-snail's trail in the story. Ensure your child is using safety/child scissors if they choose to complete this task by cutting along the lines.

# Scales and slime

## Curriculum links

### Early Years Communication and language

- Children listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions.

### Early Years Personal, social and emotional development

- Children work as part of a group or class, and understand and follow the rules.

### Early Years Understanding the world

- They make observations of animals.

### Early Years Physical development

- Children show good control and coordination in large and small movements.
- They handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing.

### Expressive Arts and design

- They safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.
- Children use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about uses and purposes.

## Scales and slime

### Resource Sheet 1: Princess Pearl needs...

Can you help Princess Pearl by making the things she needs for the King's medicine? Draw pictures of the different ingredients.

Mermaid  
scales

Unicorn's  
horn

Mighty lion's  
sneeze

Slime

# Scales and slime

## Resource Sheet 2: Snail trails

Follow the sea-snail trails for Gadabout

