

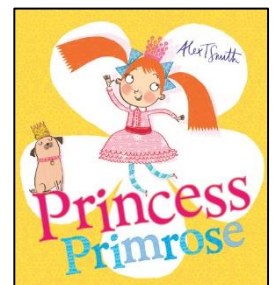


Princess Primrose

Written and illustrated by
Alex T. Smith

1 – Introducing the book

- Read the first two sentences in the story. Which sound keeps being repeated? Looking at the picture, ask children if they think Princess Primrose looks happy with her pretty pink life? Why do they think she might be fed up?
- Read the rest of the page, and take suggestions for what Princess Primrose might like to do instead to have fun? Talk about social stereotypes for girls and boys in terms of what kind of clothes, colours and activities you are 'supposed' to like best, and whether that is true for everyone. How would children feel if you said that only the boys could play on certain playground equipment, or only the girls could have fun with the dressing up clothes? Agree that it wouldn't be very fair.
- Ask children to share with a partner what they like to do to have fun. Why do they think Grandma makes the King and Queen join in with the activities that Primrose is doing? What happens when they do?



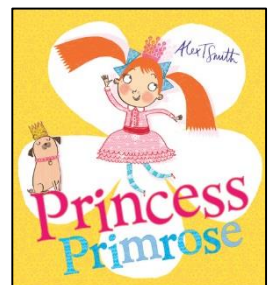


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1 – Introducing the book

- As you are reading the story, explore ‘hot-seating’ with the King or Queen. Choose a child to act into one of those roles, coming to the front to sit on a royal ‘throne’. The other children should then ask them questions about what their expectations are of Primrose’s behaviour, what shocking things they have found her doing, and how they feel when they see her behaving in that way. The child in role must answer as if they actually are the King or Queen. Repeat with Princess Primrose being asked questions about what she was doing when her father/mother found her, and why it was much more fun than what she was supposed be doing.





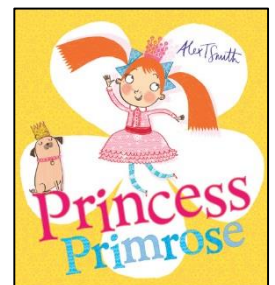
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2 – Let's Play

- Make a list of the activities that Princess Primrose does that she is told off for – climbing trees, dressing up, playing boardgames, gardening, cooking, splashing in the fountain. They may not fit with what a 'princess' is supposed to do, but what skills do children think she is learning in each one? For example, she is developing confidence, co-ordination and balance, gaining an understanding of nature, practising accurate measuring etc. Agree that playing is fun, but it's also a great way of learning. For each of the activities, talk through what rules could be in place so that Primrose can have fun, but still keep the King and Queen happy. For example, agreeing to put all the equipment away tidily afterwards, wearing appropriate protective clothes, washing her hands thoroughly, taking turns, stopping when asked. Make a link to the expectations in place of how children behave in the classroom.





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2 – Let's Play

- Set up a range of activities similar to the ones that Princess Primrose enjoys in the story, and give children a chance to explore each one. Make sure they take into account the expectations already agreed around each one. Children could:
 - Play on an outside obstacle course (instead of climbing trees)
 - Play dressing ups and put on a show, or cut out some paper dolls and collage different outfits for them
 - Have fun in a 'mud kitchen'
 - Plant seeds in a vegetable patch
 - Make and decorate cupcakes
 - Enjoy water play.
- Afterwards, invite children to share which activities they liked best and to give a reason why.
- Invite children to write a thank you letter to grandma, either from Princess Primrose thanking her for showing the King and Queen how to have fun, or from the King/Queen thanking her for showing her how princesses really should behave and the importance of having fun.

