

The Gruffalo

Adult Led Focus

- Discuss the character of the Gruffalo or the mouse. What was their behaviour like? Why?
- Talk to the children about how it is important to be a good friend. These [How to Be a Good Friend Cards](#) have some great picture prompts to help with this.
- Read the story with these [Emotion Cards](#) and ask the children to hold up the face that represents the character's feelings at various parts in the story.
- Talk to the children about The Gruffalo and if he really was as scary as the mouse said he was. How do the children think the Gruffalo felt throughout the story?
- Ask children to bring in a photo or draw a picture of their favourite place to go for a walk; just like the mouse did in the story.

Indoor Enhancements

- Encourage the children to work together in teams to create a house for the mouse in the block/ construction area.
- Provide a camera or mirror and these [Gruffalo Display Posters](#). Encourage the children to choose a picture and make a face to show how that picture makes them feel.

Outdoor Enhancements

- Have [Gruffalo Role Play Masks](#) or [Gruffalo Headbands](#) and props from the story available. Encourage the children to work together in groups to act out the story.
- Hide Gruffalo themed soft toys around the outdoor area. Encourage the children to work as a team to find them.
- Provide some den making materials and challenge the children to work together to create a 'Gruffalo Cave'.
- Play 'Gruffalo's Footsteps'. A child (the Gruffalo) turns to face a wall. The other children stand a given distance away. When the Gruffalo isn't looking, the children gradually move closer towards them (they could tiptoe like a mouse, sneak like a fox or flap their arms like an owl). When the Gruffalo turns around, the children must freeze. Anyone who the Gruffalo sees moving, must go back to the beginning. The first person to reach the Gruffalo, takes a turn at being the Gruffalo next. Provide a [Gruffalo Headband](#) for the Gruffalo to wear.

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- Use the [Gruffalo Story Sack](#) with the children.
- The following are adult input activities, ideal for developing listening and communication skills. They can be found in this [Adult Input Planning Pack to Support Teaching on The Gruffalo](#):
 - What's Missing? Game
 - Hot Seating Activity
 - Listening Game
- Story Recording Activity

Indoor Enhancements

- Have some [Gruffalo Role Play Masks](#) or [Gruffalo Headbands](#) available to support the children in retelling the story in their own words.
- In the listening area, have an audio copy of the book along with a hard copy and related props.
- Have this [Gruffalo Matching Activity](#) available for the children to use. It is great for communication and language, particularly extending vocabulary.
- Provide these [Gruffalo Story Sequencing Cards](#), along with some soft toys and other props to encourage the children to retell the story.

Outdoor Enhancements

- Have these [Gruffalo Role Play Masks](#) or [Gruffalo Headbands](#) available for the children to retell and re-enact the story. This [Gruffalo Story Wheel](#) might be a good prompt for storytelling.
- Create a specially decorated chair with the children. This then becomes a special storytelling chair for the children to retell the story to each other.
- Hide these [Gruffalo Story Stones](#) in a shallow container or activity tray filled with bark chippings, branches, conkers and other woodland objects. Encourage the children to talk about the characters and story as they come across the stones.

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- The following are adult input activities, ideal for developing a variety of physical skills. They can be found in the [Adult Input Planning Pack to Support Teaching on The Gruffalo](#):
 - Making Gruffalo Crumble Activity
 - Movement Activity

Indoor Enhancements

- Use these [Gruffalo Playdough Mats](#) to encourage children to shape and mould Gruffalo themed models. You could also have brown playdough, with buttons, bottle tops, some purple-dyed macaroni and coloured lolly sticks.
- Use this [Pine Scented Playdough](#) to enhance the forest theme.
- Have these [Gruffalo Pencil Control Sheets](#) in the writing area.
- Fine motor skills – these [Gruffalo Shadow Puppets](#) could be available in the creative area for children to cut out, colour and decorate.
- This [Gruffalo Spikes Finger Gym Activity](#) and the [Gruffalo's Journey Finger Gym](#) help to develop fine motor skills.
- This [Make a Model to Support Teaching on The Gruffalo EYFS Busy Bag Plan and Resource Pack](#) encourages children to use their imagination as well as developing fine motor skills.

Outdoor Enhancements

- Messy play – make your own animal dish e.g. roasted fox, owl ice cream – provide a range of 'ingredients' for children to make up their own concoctions, with plenty of bowls, spoons, play oven etc.
- Provide laminated [Gruffalo Crumble Recipe Cards](#) and appropriate equipment in the Mud Kitchen.
- Make some homemade mark makers from natural woodland materials such as twigs, pinecones and feathers and place in a shallow tray of sand.

The Gruffalo

Adult Led Focus

- The following are adult input activities, ideal for developing storytelling skills. They can be found in the [Adult Input Planning Pack to Support Teaching on The Gruffalo](#):
 - Hot Seating Activity
 - Story Recording Activity
 - 'What am I thinking?' Writing Activity
- Read the story to the children. Encourage them to join in with repeated refrains.
- Model writing simple letters with the children. This could be from the Gruffalo to the mouse or the mouse to the other animals.
- Cut out and laminate these [Gruffalo Story Cut-Outs](#). Show the characters to the children one at a time and ask them to tell you something they know about the character, recording their ideas about each one on a separate piece of large paper. Repeat this, asking the children to tell you something about the way the character would feel during the story, again recording it. Finally, ask the children what they think each character will get up to after the story finishes. You will be left with a great bank of ideas for your Gruffalo topic and also a lovely Gruffalo themed display.

Indoor Enhancements

- In the writing area, have these [Gruffalo Word Mats](#) and [Gruffalo Page Borders](#) available. The children might also enjoy these [Gruffalo Thought Bubble Posters](#) which they can fill in using their knowledge of the story. You could also have Gruffalo shaped paper/booklets available for the children to use.
- These [Draw Your Own Terrible Creature Sheets](#) can also be put in the writing area. A great way to get the children's imaginations going!
- Put a selection of resources from the story sack in the reading area, along with a few different copies of the story and non-fiction books about mice/owls/foxes/snakes.
- You could use these [Gruffalo Themed Display Letters](#) as part of an interactive phonics display. Can the children match the characters with their initial sound?
- These [Gruffalo Word Cards](#) will support children's writing about The Gruffalo.
- Provide this [Snake Themed Board Game](#) to develop children's phonic knowledge.

Outdoor Enhancements

- Have a selection of writing tools available near the cave or forest role play area (see EAD), along with paper on clipboards.
- Create a 'Gruffalo Cave' reading den outside, using blankets and cushions and covered with sheets or tarpaulin. Have a selection of copies of the story available for the children to use.
- Draw 'cave drawings' on the floor using chalks.

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Adult Led Focus

- Print out and laminate numbers 0-10/20 from this [Gruffalo Themed Display Numbers](#) resource. Play ordering games, missing number games, matching and counting games etc.
- The following are adult input activities, ideal for developing maths skills. They can be found in the [Adult Input Planning Pack to Support Teaching on The Gruffalo](#):
 - Sudoku Problem Solving Activity
 - Size Ordering Activity
- If possible, you could collect a selection of animal toys/models from the story (owls, foxes, snakes). These could then be used for a variety of counting, addition and subtraction activities.

Indoor Enhancements

- Have these [Gruffalo Counting Sheets](#) and [Gruffalo Addition Sheets](#) available in the maths area.
- Have this [Gruffalo Size Ordering Flipchart](#) available on the interactive whiteboard.
- Provide this [Gruffalo Size Matching Activity](#) in the maths area for children to investigate size.
- Provide snake shaped paper in the creative area and encourage children to create repeating patterns. They could use paint and a variety of shapes to print the patterns or felt-tip pens and crayons to draw the patterns.
- Provide a variety of lengths of toy snakes in the sand tray or tray of bark chippings, along with other branches, logs and stones for the snakes to hide amongst.

Outdoor Enhancements

- Print out and laminate numbers 0-10/20 from this [Gruffalo Themed Display Numbers](#) resource. Ask the children to order them on a washing line outside.
- Make a large scale snake out of twisted fabric and then use plastic shapes to create repeating patterns along its body.

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- The following are adult input activities, ideal for developing investigative and observational skills. They can be found in the [Adult Input Planning Pack to Support Teaching on The Gruffalo](#):
 - A Gruffalo Hunt Activity
 - Sensory Play Activity
 - Story Recording Activity
- Use the children's interest in the story as a springboard to finding out more about forests. Support children to search on the Internet using a child-friendly search engine.
- Use the characters in the book to investigate different animals and their habitats. In the grounds of the setting, try to set up a home for each of the animals. Go for a walk with the children and try to guess which character might live in each home. Think about the similarities and differences between the animals, for example which ones have fur, which ones lay eggs.
- The children could use what they have learnt about habitats to design a habitat for the Gruffalo.
- In small groups, support the children in moving the Bee-Bot to meet each of the characters in order. These [Gruffalo Story Cut-Outs](#) may be useful for the props.

Indoor Enhancements

- Have a selection of child-friendly ICT equipment available for children to record themselves retelling the story.
- In the listening area, have an audio copy of the book along with a hard copy and related props. The children can explore how to operate the CD player independently.
- Use a paint/drawing program on the IWB for children to draw pictures of the characters from the story.
- Set up a small world version of the story to encourage children to retell it. This [Gruffalo Small World Background](#) might come in handy, along with these [Gruffalo Stick Puppets](#).
- This [Size Ordering Activity Flipchart](#) could be provided for the children to use independently on an interactive whiteboard.
- Provide a variety of non-fiction books about woods and forests and about the animals in the story for the children to look at. You could make a Gruffalo cave for the children to read in.
- Provide a selection of woodland objects such as conkers, leaves, smooth stones, pine cones, bark twigs, offcuts of branches etc.

Outdoor Enhancements

- Have the Gruffalo Sensory Play (see adult led focus) available for the children to access in their independent learning.
- This [Gruffalo Sensory Tray](#) will encourage children to use their senses to explore.

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Adult Led Focus

- The following are adult input activities, ideal for developing a variety of creative skills. They can be found in the [Adult Input Planning Pack to Support Teaching on The Gruffalo](#):
 - Movement Activity
 - Making a Playdough Gruffalo Activity
- Use percussion instruments to make the sounds to accompany the different creatures in the story. Encourage the children to think about which instrument would be best for each character and how they should be played (quiet/loud, slow/fast).
- Teach the children some Gruffalo related songs using this [Songs and Rhymes Resource Pack to Support Teaching on The Gruffalo](#).

Indoor Enhancements

- In the painting area, put [Gruffalo Display Posters](#) on display to encourage the children to paint story themed paintings. These [Gruffalo Display images](#) may help children to add more detail to their paintings.
- Create a Gruffalo Small World area using this [Gruffalo Small World Pack](#).
- Have a selection of junk modelling materials available for the children to create their own houses for the mouse.
- Create a Gruffalo's cave role play area. This could be made out of a large cardboard box or cube-shaped tent, covered with crumpled up brown paper. You could also have glow-in-the-dark footprints leading up to the cave.
- Provide these [Gruffalo Crumble Recipe Cards](#) in the home corner, along with equipment and pretend food to encourage the children to create their own crumble to share with friends.
- Provide brown paper bags and a variety of materials such as buttons, orange and purple paper, art straws, felt-tip pens, crayons and paint for the children to use to create their own Gruffalo hand puppets.
- Provide 'The Gruffalo Song and Other Songs CD' or 'The Gruffalo's Child and Other Songs CD' by Julia Donaldson, along with instruments for the children to use to play along.

Outdoor Enhancements

- Bark and leaf rubbings onto paper with wax crayons.
- Set up a forest role play area outside for children to re-enact the story. If you are lucky enough to have a grassy area, this could be the base; if not, some green fabric on the floor would be fine. Artificial Christmas trees would be great, along with green fabric or crepe paper hanging overhead on washing lines. You could also have some toys of forest animals and minibeasts along with non-fiction and story books related to forests. Collections of objects found in a forest, e.g. pine cone, twigs, pebbles might also be good.
- Provide these [Gruffalo Crumble Recipe Cards](#) in the mud kitchen, to encourage the children to create their own crumble to share with friends.
- Provide a variety of natural materials such as conkers, leaves, twigs, pebbles, pine cones, offcuts of branches and bark chippings for the children to use to create transient art.
- Set up a Gruffalo Role Play Cafe selling food for the Gruffalo – roasted fox, scrambled snake, owl ice-cream and any others that the children can create!
- Provide music to add atmosphere to your forest role play, for example, 'Mussorgsky – Night on a Bald Mountain' or 'Arnold Bax – November Woods'.

EYFS The Gruffalo Enhancements

Water

- A selection of cups and jugs for making 'Gruffalo tea'.

Workshop

- [Gruffalo Shadow Puppets.](#)
- Selection of junk modelling materials so the children can create homes for the characters in the story.

Music

- Provide 'The Gruffalo Song and Other Songs CD' or 'The Gruffalo's Child and Other Songs CD' by Julia Donaldson along with instruments for the children to use to play along.
- [Songs and Rhymes Resource Pack to Support Teaching on The Gruffalo.](#)

Malleable

- [Gruffalo Playdough Mats.](#)
- Provide [Pine Scented Playdough](#) for a forest theme.
- Provide brown playdough, buttons, bottle tops, lollipop sticks and some purple dyed macaroni for the children to make Gruffalo models.

Investigation

- Exploration in Mud Kitchen making Gruffalo crumble, owl ice cream, roasted fox and scrambled snake.
- [Gruffalo Sensory Tray.](#)
- Exploring woodland objects collected on a woodland walk.
- Bark and leaf rubbings outside.

Painting

- [Gruffalo Display Posters](#) and [Gruffalo Display Images](#) as a stimulus at the easel.

Construction

- Den making materials for creating a Gruffalo cave.
- Wooden blocks, offcuts of branches and other natural materials to make small scale habitats for the characters.

Maths

- [Gruffalo Matching Activity.](#)
- [Gruffalo Counting Sheets.](#)
- [Gruffalo Themed Display Numbers.](#)
- 2D shape printing on snake shaped paper.
- Different lengths of snake in the sand tray or a tray of bark chippings for comparison.

Role Play

- [Gruffalo Role Play Masks.](#)
- [Gruffalo Headbands.](#)
- Gruffalo Cave Role Play Area.
- Forest Role Play Area.
- Gruffalo Café Role Play Area.

Reading

- [Gruffalo Story Wheel.](#)
- [Gruffalo Themed Display Letters.](#)
- [Gruffalo Word Cards.](#)
- [The Gruffalo Story Sack.](#)
- Create a Gruffalo Cave Reading Den.
- [Gruffalo Story Sequencing Cards.](#)
- Provide the 'The Gruffalo's Child' by Julia Donaldson.
- [Snake Themed Phonics Board Game.](#)

Small World

- [Gruffalo small World Background.](#)
- [Gruffalo Stick Puppets.](#)

Writing

- [Gruffalo Word Mats.](#)
- [Gruffalo Page Borders.](#)
- [Gruffalo Thought Bubble Posters.](#)
- Chalks for making cave drawings outside.

Sand

- Provide a selection of woodland objects such as conkers, leaves, smooth stones, pine cones, bark twigs, offcuts of branches etc.
- [Gruffalo Story Stones.](#)

ICT

- [Gruffalo Size Ordering Flipchart.](#)
- Child-friendly ICT equipment for children to record themselves retelling the story.
- Paint/draw program on the IWB for children to draw pictures of characters from the story.
- Make the Bee-Bot visit each of the characters in order using these [Story Cut-Outs.](#)

Mark Making /Fine Motor

- [Gruffalo Pencil Control Sheets.](#)
- [Draw Your Own Terrible Creature Sheets.](#)
- [Gruffalo Spikes Finger Gym.](#)
- [Gruffalo's Journey Finger Gym.](#)
- Chunky chalks for cave painting outside.
- Mark making in a shallow sand tray with natural mark makers such as twigs and feathers.
- [Make a Model to Support Teaching on The Gruffalo EYFS Busy Bag Plan and Resource Pack.](#)