

Play
School

Story Time

PlayWorld



Ideas for parents and carers

In this episode of Play School Story Time, Dr Chris Brown and his dog Buzz share 'We Love You, Magoo' by Briony Stewart.

This book is about a loveable family pet, a dog called Magoo. He's playful but seems to always be in trouble.

STEM learning

Biology and olfactory senses

This PlayWorld supports:

Children's understandings about animal biology and other wonders of their everyday world. It also helps children recognise and self-regulate their emotions.



STEP 1:

View/read and reflect

As you read, ask how we can tell if Magoo is happy or sad? Can you show the same emotional expressions as Magoo?

Also notice Magoo's big nose. Why do you think dogs have such big noses?

STEP 2: Plan your play

Prepare these items:

- Make some simple dog masks, using specific colours for different breeds.
- Write 5 notes from Dr Dog and leave them around the garden. Make 4 of the notes about how dogs use their sense of smell. The last note says 'I think you might have a nose infection. Please come visit me' From Dr Dog.
- Two dog toys – Magoo and Dr Dog.
- Record a message on your phone from Magoo:



Woof woof woof. Hello Dog Detectives! This is Magoo! I can't smell anything and I feel very confused. I think I am also feeling sad. The dog doctor sent me 5 notes, but I've lost them in the garden. Can you find them for me?



STEP 3: Go on your adventure

At a gate or door, put on your masks, turn into dogs and explore Magoo's world.

As you play, notice different smells and talk about some of the ways dogs use their sense of smell. For example, you might meet a toy that is scared, and because you are dogs, you can smell this feeling!

STEP 5: Learn through play

Take Magoo with you as you start to discover the notes from Dr Dog in the garden! Read them to Magoo. Poor Magoo, no wonder he is feeling confused and sad – you use your nose for so many things!

Find the last note and take Magoo to Dr Dog. Magoo has a sinus infection and gets some medicine.

Finish your PlayWorld with a big 'We Love You, Magoo!' hug, and tuck him into bed to get better.



STEP 4: Encounter a problem

- After lots of fun pretending to be dogs, find your Magoo toy dog and play the recorded message.
- Test five different strong smells with toy Magoo and see if he reacts. Nothing!
- Oh no! Can we help him? How can we find the notes? Maybe we can smell them! Pretend to become Dog Detectives to help poor Magoo, who has lost his sense of smell.



Why this learning matters

This PlayWorld explores animal biology, and helps open a child's eyes to the wonders of their everyday world.

It also helps children label feelings like sadness, happiness and confusion. Naming emotions is the first step to being able to self-regulate, but also to recognise how others might be feeling.

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