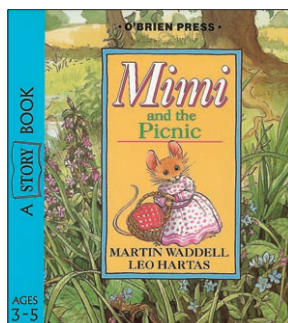


# MIMI AND THE PICNIC



by Martin Waddell, colour illustrations by Leo Hartas

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Mimi is the eldest sibling in a family of mice who come in all shapes and sizes – the smallest is Hugo. One sunny day they set off for a picnic on the riverbank, taking with them hampers, buckets, spades and other picnic paraphernalia. The *pièce de résistance* of the picnic is a large bowl of meringue, complete with cherry on top. As the brothers and sisters play and Mimi sets up the picnic, Hugo falls unnoticed right into this bowl. At tea-time, there is no sign of him. A frantic search ensues while Hugo blithely eats his way out of this sticky situation. As the mouse tears begin to fall, Hugo is discovered, now not quite as small as he had been!

## LANGUAGE – ENGLISH

- ◆ Repetition and rhyme, use of rhythm and refrain.
- ◆ Discuss and observe carefully the illustrations as they tell the true story of what actually happened.
- ◆ An early mystery story: Child is asked, 'Where's Hugo?'
- ◆ Discuss the illustrations to elicit language describing play.
- ◆ Discuss the illustrations to elicit language describing food.
- ◆ Language of movement: Scuttling, running, searching.
- ◆ Language of position: Under, in, between, beside, above.

## SESE – SCIENCE

- ◆ Living things: Mice and their habitat. Animals of the riverbank: Robin, vole, badger.
- ◆ Animals which scavenge: Mice, rats, foxes, wild cats.
- ◆ Caring for my locality. Habitat of the riverbank: Moss, weeds, ivy, wildflowers.
- ◆ The food chain, our leftovers as the staple diet of others.

## SPHE

- ◆ Personal safety: Being lost, dangers of. The loser's perspective. What it feels like for the adult or

person in charge when a child may be lost.

- ◆ Importance of letting people know where you are.
- ◆ Circle time: Finding things. Hide something in class. First one child searches, then a group. Which finds the object soonest? The importance of teamwork and co-operation.

## MATHEMATICS

- ◆ Counting and sorting of mice according to size, gender, age.
- ◆ Observation skills: Observing the tiny details in illustrations.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- ◆ Warm-up: Mice scuttling all around. Stop and freeze when music stops.
- ◆ Movement: Small – growing bigger.
- ◆ Chasing games: Cat and mouse.
- ◆ Cool-down: Mime of sunny picnic. Eating and drinking various 'outdoor' foods, lazing in the sun.

## VISUAL ARTS

- ◆ Template of mouse: Trace. Colour. Glue on wool or string tail.
- ◆ Finger painting: Thumb for mouse body, fingertips for ears, squiggle for tail.