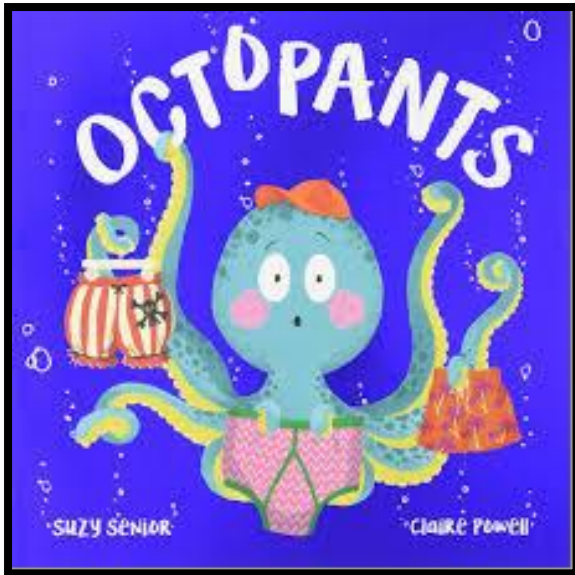


Octopus Activity

**** supervise your child during the activity as it may contain small parts ****



Get comfy snuggle up and share the story "OCTOPANTS" with your child.

A young octopus is embarrassed that he doesn't have any pants to wear! He goes to several stores in the sea, but none of them has what he needs. Then one day he discovers the Under-Sea Emporium that seems to have the perfect items for everyone. Will he finally find something that's just right for him.

❖ Here is a rhyme about an octopus, see if you can count to 8 on your fingers as you sing it.

Once I saw an octopus

Once I saw an octopus in the deep blue sea.

I called "Mr Octopus won't you swim with me?"

Then out came his arms so very long and straight,

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8!

❖ How to make a playdough Octopus

The aim of this activity is not only to create your own octopus, but to count the 8 arms that you will make to attach to your octopus.

Instead of using different coloured dough to decorate your octopus with, we have provided sequins or buttons for you to press into the dough. If you have some paint or food colouring at home you could use this to change the colour of the dough.

Below is a link to a YouTube video to give you some idea on how to create your own Octopus out of playdough.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2X5c4a5cso>

If you prefer to create your own without following the video, then please do! We can't wait to see your Octopus creations. Remember to count out the arms on your octopus 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8!

Now sing the rhyme again to your octopus and this time instead of counting on your fingers, count the arms on your octopus.



❖ The importance of play dough

Playing with dough can benefit your child's development in many ways.

Playing with dough helps develop the muscles necessary for writing.

Writing requires well developed fine motor skills –the ability to use muscles in their fingers and hands.

Making and playing with dough provides lots of opportunities to develop your child's language and vocabulary. Talk with your child about the patterns they make in the dough. Ask them to describe how the dough feels

Enjoy sharing the scientific experience of making dough!