

Learning possibilities

Text: Heller, R 1981, *Chickens aren't the only ones*, Scholastic, New York.

Engage

Step 1. If you have this book at home, encourage your child/children to predict what the story is about from the cover. Before reading, invite children to look at the cover and make predictions, for example: 'What do you think this book is about?' (hen and eggs). 'That's right, hens lay eggs and so do some other creatures. Can you think of any other animals that lay eggs? Let's make a list.' Making a list draws on your child/children's existing knowledge of egg-laying animals. If you do not have the story use the suggested video link in the Resources box and watch the story together.

Step 2. Before reading/watching, explain that this is an information book that helps us learn facts about animals. It also uses rhyme to share the information.

Step 3. Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.

- 1: What did you see in the book?
- 2: Which sea creature puts its eggs in the fathers pouch?
- 3: Which is your favourite egg-laying animal and why?
- 4: What might happen when a frog's eggs hatch?

Respond

- Encourage children to examine the shapes of the eggs and the parent animals closely and invite them to construct an egg laying creature using playdough, collage and or paints. Talk about the rare words in the book and explain their meanings.

Extend

- Boil some eggs with your child/ children and look at how the egg yolk changes in the cooking process (suitable if your child has no egg allergies)
- Use the eggs to make an egg sandwich and discuss the steps for making a sandwich, for example: 'First we ... then we ...'

Resources

Rhyme

'Little chick' (transition game)

Little chick in the egg (*children curled up on floor with head and feet tucked in*)

As quiet as quiet can be,

Crackle, crackle, crackle,

Out popped s/he. (*teacher taps a child on the back; when tapped, the child moves off to wash hands before snack or lunch break*)

This same rhyme can be used to make a class book.

Little ... in the egg (*children select a creature and draw a picture, adult writes the word*)

As quiet as quiet can be,

Crackle, crackle, crackle,

Out popped s/he.

Video

Chickens Aren't the Only Ones (YouTube, NomNomReadRead)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwkcjyRjF2g>

Rare word	Synonym
wild	untamed, natural
tame	trained and broken-in (horse, dog)
extinct	died out
reptiles	scales, claws, cold-blooded
amphibians	live in and on water, no scales or claws
oviparous	egg-laying animal: insect, reptile or bird