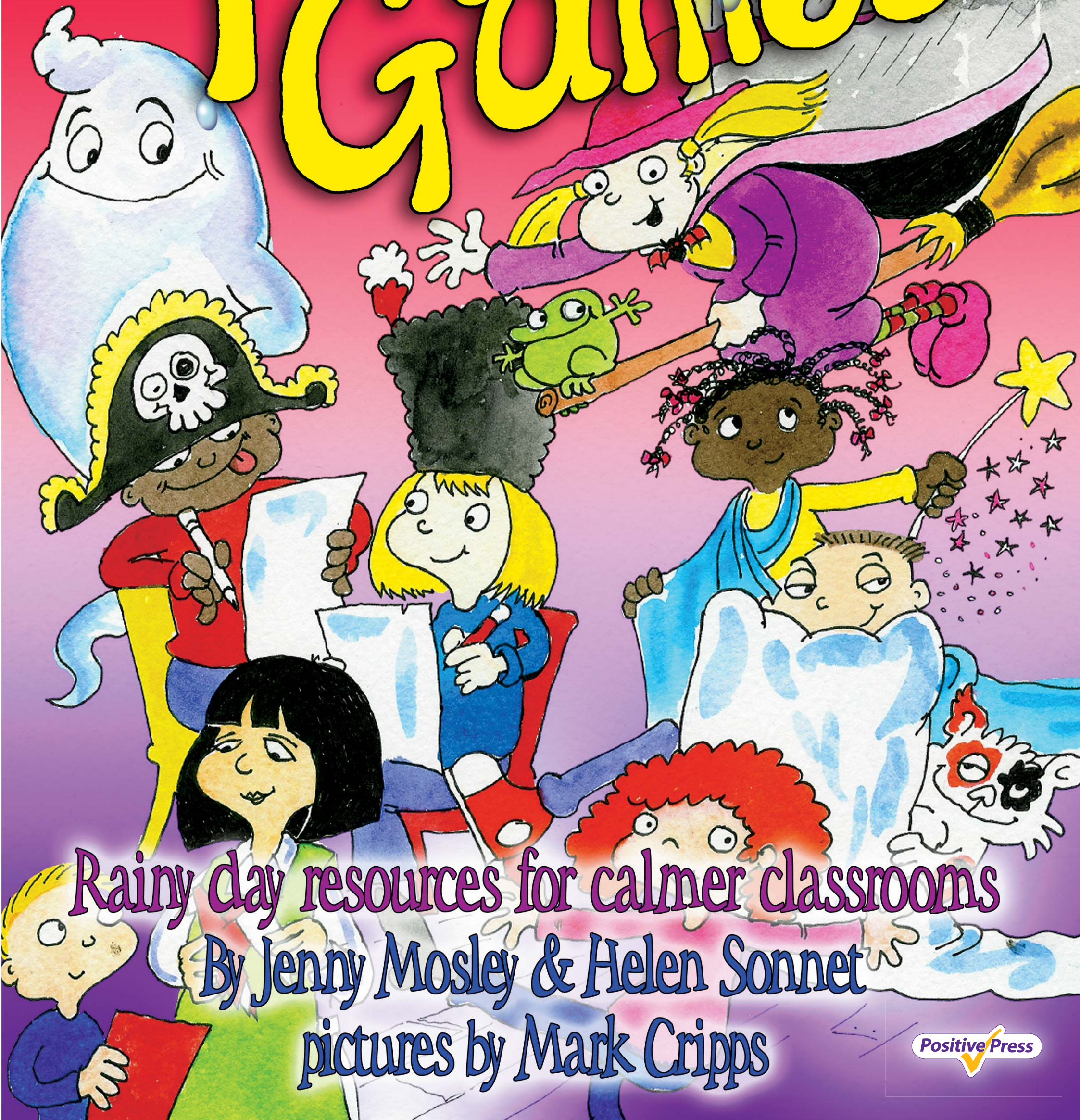


Wet Playtime PG Games



Rainy day resources for calmer classrooms

By Jenny Mosley & Helen Sonnet

pictures by Mark Cripps



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How to use this book

Rain happens. In fact, it happens all too often. If you want to beat the gloom and dispiriting fretfulness it can bring, you need to have everything ready before the clouds loom and spoil your day. Here are a few tips that will help.

Be ready!

Teachers need to agree what the children can be allowed to play with in the class during wet playtimes. Draw up a list, laminate it and display it on the wall. In this way, all the supervisors know exactly where it is and can't be drawn into endless energy-sapping arguments with the children. Find a shelf or a box that you can designate as your wet playtime container and make sure that it contains everything you need for a stress-free wet playtime: scrap paper, crayons, scissors, white boards, felt-tip pens, board games, comics, jigsaw puzzles etc.

Rain supervisors

Give an allocated 'wet playtime helper' responsibility for the maintenance of the wet playtime container. It will be their job to keep your box/shelf nice and tidy and ready for action. Checking that the jigsaws are complete and the felt-tip pens are in working order can be their wet playtime activity, so choose a few children who like to keep things organised.

Involve parents

Send a letter home and ask for contributions to your wet playtime container. Ask for jigsaw puzzles, board games and comics and you'll be surprised how many families will contribute. A surprising number of children adore colouring books and will sit together chatting and colouring for an entire wet playtime. You can buy these books very cheaply in 'pound' shops. Ask your school PTA for a small contribution to set you up with some each term.

Never let a craze go stale

Even wet playtimes have their crazes – colouring one month, chess games the next – but interest will

eventually wear thin so you need to be ready with your next craze before boredom sets in. Keep something hidden in the back of the stock cupboard so that you can pull it out at a moment's notice. You could, for instance, hide all of the jigsaw puzzles until everyone has forgotten that they ever existed and then, hey presto, you can pull them out as the next craze.

Use the curriculum

There is always something in the curriculum that really captures children's imagination. Make a note of sure-fire interest generators when you are doing your planning – 3D shapes, map skills, hieroglyphics, different kinds of poetry writing – and have some materials and worksheets ready to give out during wet playtimes.

Don't forget the old favourites

Noughts and crosses, battleships, cat's cradles, consequences, letter strings, atlas games, town/country/river, first letter/last letter, puppet theatres, weaving cards, sewing, finger rhymes and charades – all of these are fully-absorbing, quiet, sit-down activities and children love them.

Duplicate short play-scripts

If you come across some short play-scripts, it is a good idea to duplicate enough copies for each character to have a script. Keep these in a box or drawer and allow children to organise themselves and read them through during wet playtimes. If your older children are talented, they may be able to provide scripts for younger classes and will have the life-enhancing knowledge that their work is being used and enjoyed.



Wet Playtime Games

Every member of the school community feels a sense of gloom when the morning sky turns grey. Raindrops spatter down on a playground that should be resounding with the carefree exuberance of happy children enjoying a time of healthy activity. Everyone knows that children need this time to blow away the cobwebs so that they can return to the classroom refreshed and eager to learn. A rainy-day-shut-indoors feeling makes the whole school restless and edgy and many afternoon lessons begin less happily than they should. Rain is a fact of life but we wish it wouldn't happen at lunchtime!

Wet playtimes don't need to be draining and they don't need to spoil the rest of everyone's day. But they do need to be managed and planned for, and structured so that they can be a productive and positive time for the whole school. Every school needs to have coping strategies in place. They need a set of resources to draw upon and a selection of games and activities that are designed to ensure that wet middays have the qualities of a bright sunny lunchtime even if the outdoors is wet and forbidding.

This book is full of lively and exciting games that will delight all children. All of the activities are designed to stimulate a spirit of co-operation and healthy social interaction, with something to suit every child. For those who like to exercise their minds, there are memory games and activities that require children to pit their wits against an opponent. There are more physical games for those children who need to let off steam and release tensions in a happy, friendly way.

There are fun games of chance and activities for creative children who love to involve themselves in art and drama.

Your children will love to dip into the book time and time again to enjoy the enchanting illustrations and choose a new activity. Staff can join in with group activities and enjoy the positive involvement as a welcome change from supervising fractious cooped-up children.

Like all our Learning through Action books, the ideas and games can be used not just by the adults (in this case the lunchtime supervisors) but also by the older children helping younger children. In many of our Golden Schools, we have children who apply and are interviewed for the role of playground helper. They wear yellow caps out in the playground when they are working in the zoned area, but they also wear them at wet playtimes. Two helpers are assigned to different classes at wet playtime, so under the eye of the mid-day supervisor they can use this book with the younger children. In this way both the older and the younger child will have their self-esteem enhanced.

So, build on the good practice that already exists in your school and use this range of simple but effective ideas to make rainy days seem shorter and brighter!

Helen Sonnet

Jenny Mosley

(Member of the QCA PE and School Sports (PESS) Steering Committee)



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Sun Beats Rain

Shuffle the cards and place them face down.

Both you and your partner choose a card (sun, rain, frost, cloud, wind). Keep them hidden.

On the count of three, reveal your cards.

The power of each card is as follows:

Sun dries rain, sun melts frost.
Rain warms frost, rain shrinks cloud.
Frost chills wind, frost freezes cloud.
Cloud hides sun, cloud dulls wind.
Wind blows rain, wind cools sun.

The winner scores a point.

Continue to play with different cards until one of you has scored ten points.

This is a game for pairs. Photocopy the symbols on page 31 onto card, cut them out and laminate them. You will need two sets of weather symbols for each pair.



- The children will learn the status of the symbols quite quickly if you run through them several times together, chanting them as a verse.
- Hold tournaments with winners playing each other until there is a class champion.



Imagination Work-out

Choose a category from the following list.
Give everyone some scrap paper and the task of dreaming up ten things that will fit a particular setting or situation.

Gather a few items that will help you to get thinking about the categories that are listed on this page. Display the items on a table to help ideas to start flowing. Add some categories of your own.



10 things that are smaller than a mouse.

10 things that you might find in a king's dungeon.

10 things that taste horrible.

10 things that a giant might keep in his kitchen.

10 things that use water.

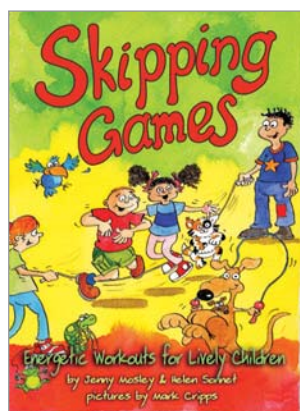
10 things that are red.



- Use your current curriculum for ideas: 10 things that you would find inside a pyramid or that are made from particular materials, for example.
- Ask younger children for smaller numbers of items.



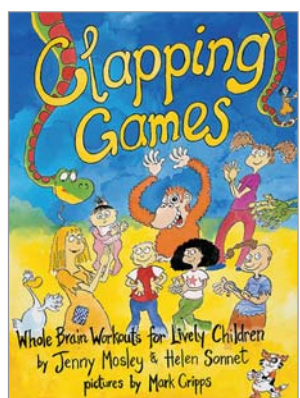
Other titles in the Learning Through Action series



Skipping Games

By Jenny Mosley and Helen Sonnet, illustrated by Mark Cripps

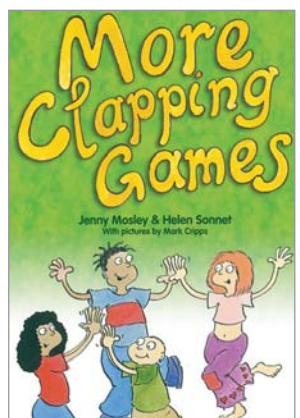
The skipping activities in this book are designed to proceed from the simple to truly impressive displays of magnificent agility. They have catchy chants that bring rhythm, humour, exercise, accomplishment and companionship to your playground, making it a happy place full of those who spend their free time doing something that has been enjoyed since rope was invented. You will find both traditional and modern chants in this book. You could even create some of your own.



Clapping Games

By Jenny Mosley and Helen Sonnet, illustrated by Mark Cripps

This first collection of clapping games includes old favourites and brand new rhymes. With colourful illustrations and beautiful details, the games in this large format, full-colour book develop listening skills, head and hand coordination, memory and language skills in a fun and entertaining format. Includes CD.



More Clapping Games

By Jenny Mosley and Helen Sonnet, illustrated by Mark Cripps

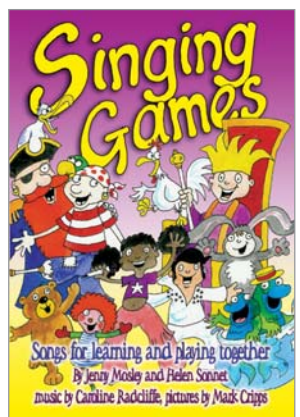
Building on the success of the first book, this collection (in black and white A4 format) expands the repertoire with 30 new clapping games which will appeal to older as well as younger children. Includes a DVD, demonstrating the games as performed by KS1 and KS2 children.



Playground Games

By Jenny Mosley and Helen Sonnet, illustrated by Mark Cripps

Here is a rich store of the games and activities we had access to as children: playground games that teach children about teamwork, leader and follower skills and, most importantly, how to have a good time as part of collaborative group imagination.



Singing Games

By Jenny Mosley and Helen Sonnet, illustrated by Mark Cripps

Songs for children to learn together and sing together with an interactive twist that brings fun and energy to the classroom. The skills needed for singing together carry with them the skills of memorisation, co-operation and concentration. The simple lyrics in this collection make the songs easier to remember, with lots of rhyme and repetition. Some of the songs in this book are old favourites with familiar tunes while others are new - but all are engaging and easy to follow. A simple melody line is included for each song if you want to play along. Includes CD.

To order a catalogue, please contact:

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Wet Playtime Playtime Games

**Games and activities to ensure that playtimes indoors
have the qualities of a bright sunny day**

Wet Playtime Games is designed to stimulate a spirit of co-operation and healthy social interaction, with something to suit every child. You will find memory games and activities that require children to pit their wits against an opponent. There are games for those children who need to release tensions in a happy, friendly way; fun games of chance and activities for creative children too.

Lunchtime supervisors can enjoy working out solutions and older children can help younger children with the games. Use this beautifully illustrated range of simple but effective ideas as a way to plan for calm, manageable rainy day playtimes, and make them seem shorter and brighter!

Suitable for children aged 5 to 11 years



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