



Myton Park  
Primary School

Blair Avenue  
INGLEBY BARWICK  
TS17 5BL  
Tel Number 01642 754658  
Fax Number 01642 750717

Email: [mytonpark@sbcschools.org.uk](mailto:mytonpark@sbcschools.org.uk)  
Web: [www.sbcschools.org.uk/mytonpark](http://www.sbcschools.org.uk/mytonpark)

Head Teacher: Mrs Elisabeth Lee

Dear Parent / Carer

Enclosed in this home loan pack is a Beat Baby.

In Nursery we use our Beat babies every day for a range of speaking and listening activities and they are available throughout the session for children to play with.

One of the most important uses is to encourage children to join in with rhyme. Rhymes help children learn to talk and read. Rhymes break words into sound which help your child to hear the phonemes or individual parts of a word, as in 'Twin-kle, twin-kle, lit-tle star'. From birth and before, babies and children are drawn to rhythm, Rhymes introduce new words which help build your child's vocabulary. Rhymes are fun, and by playing with the sounds, you are giving your child the opportunity to learn new sounds and words. Generally it is true, children who are read to a lot will pick up reading quicker. children who are read rhymes with have a greater facility with developing phonic awareness and ability to manipulate sounds in words and therefore read better themselves.

We also use Beat Babies as a way of teaching children about our rules and routines, for example, when children first start Nursery and are learning to sit and listen in a small group we use the Beat Baby to model the behaviour we expect – the Beat Baby hasn't learnt how to do this yet, we need to show him etc. The Beat Baby is available during the session and children often move the Beat Babies into the Nursery areas eg block construction and include it in their play, for example making a house / bed / car for him etc. Beat babies are used at story time and children often 'read' to them independently in the reading area. Our aim with the Home Loan scheme is to build up the link between home and Nursery, i.e. talk about things at home that we are learning about at Nursery with the support of a toy that is available at both places.

We put the Beat Baby in a fancy box to introduce it and tell the children about our special friend in the box who is very shy. We take it out of the box still curled up and then say one of the introduction rhymes quietly to encourage the Beat Baby to uncurl.

Either

**Beat Baby Beat Baby oh so small Beat Baby Beat Baby curled up in a ball  
Beat Baby Beat Baby can't see you at all Beat Baby Beat Baby will you hear our call?**

Or

**Beat Baby, Beat Baby where are you? Beat Baby, Beat Baby we love you!"**

The children know that once the beat is going round successfully (ie children are clapping in time to the syllables of the rhyme), Beat Baby will come out of his/her box to play.

We sit in a close circle, and Beat Baby travels around the circle from child to child as we chant our rhymes. Beat Baby always starts off with me and I begin the rhyme and at the end of the first verse I pass Beat Baby to the first child and ask them to supply a suitable word for the 'blank'. Then when that verse is done, the child passes Beat Baby on to the next child and so it goes on until everyone has had a turn. We have a limited repertoire because that way even the youngest children can supply their 'answer' to fit in the rhyme: our favourites are:-  
**Gorilla in the corner, gorilla up a tree, gorilla jump down with a one, two three!**

**Last week I went to the zoo by train, I liked it so much that I'll go there again!**

**Hat on your head, shoes on your feet, lets go jumping out in the street. I had a bag of money, I took it to the shop, I bought 200 lollipops and then I had to stop!**

So in the first instance the children have to think of an animal go be up the tree, in the second a place to go by train and in the third, something to buy 200 of in the shops!

When we have reached the end of our time it is time to put Beat Baby back into his box, and we have a goodbye routine. We say "one, two, three and pass him on!". During the 'one two three' bit the children give Beat Baby a bit of a kiss and cuddle, and then on 'pass him on' they pass Beat Baby to the next child for them to kiss and cuddle during the next 'one two three' bit, passing on as and when appropriate. When the last child has kissed Beat Baby goodbye, they pass the Beat Baby back into my lap onto the waiting chiffon scarf and I wrap him up and put him back in his box.

We have books with a whole repertoire of songs and rhymes and will make some of the more popular rhymes available after half term. I hope that this helps you with how to use our Beat Baby at home.

Vicky Miller  
Vicky Miller  
EYFS Leader

Safeguarding is our priority and all staff at Myton Park Primary School are committed to keeping your child safe

