

A Day at the Park story book

Follow this tale about five baby hedgehogs
as you explore a local park or green space.



Read the story
together and chat to your
child about the questions on
each page to support their reading,
speaking and listening skills.
Encourage them to draw in the
spaces provided – either in a quiet
spot or back at home – to show
that this book belongs
to them!

A Get Suffolk
Reading story book
to celebrate Love
Parks Week 2023



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PARKS



At the end of a summer's day in a park that's lush and green,
Keep your eyes peeled for a lovely hedgehog scene.
Hoglets could be out exploring with their mums,
They need to learn to find food before the winter comes.
Five baby hogs: Rosie, Pear, Bramble, Thistle, Thorn,
Need to learn important lessons not long after they are born.

Look around! Imagine you can see five baby hedgehogs in the park with their mother. What are they looking for?

Can you draw the hedgehog family in the box? →



Oh no! One little hoglet gets distracted by a bee,
But her mummy keeps on walking – “hey, wait for me!”
She tries to run to keep up but her legs are far too small,
And then along comes something scary: a group of children with a ball!
So Rosie the hedgehog does the only thing she can,
She curls up tight and hides her head – that must be the best plan.
The children throw the ball and it whizzes past,
Rosie uncurls and runs away – she hopes she finds mum fast.

What game could the children be playing? How many ball games can you think of?

Can you draw Rosie and the ball? →



Parks aren't just home to hedgehogs, that's what they need to learn,
Some animals are friendly but others might be a concern.
Bramble is the bravest of the little hoglet crew,
This walk is her best chance to meet somebody new.
She admires all the insects and tries to jump like the frog,
None of the creatures are scary – until she sees the dog.
He isn't on a lead and he's very big and smelly,
And even when she runs away, Bramble's legs still feel like jelly.

Count how many dogs you see on your walk – but don't go and say hello unless the owner says you can!

Can you draw Bramble and the dog? 



Hedgehog Thorn loves water but he hasn't learned to swim,
His mum has told him to be careful or he could fall right in,
But the lake looks so inviting after a sunny day,
Dipping just his foot can't hurt and then he'll walk away.
But balance isn't easy for the hoglet Thorn,
With a splash he falls in and mum's too far away to warn!
His brain tells him to paddle so he kicks his legs and arms,
Thorn's first swim is to the edge, safe and out of harm.


Did you know hedgehogs can swim? What other animals and creatures live near water?'

Can you draw Thorn swimming in the lake? 



The family keeps on walking, mummy tells them not to stop,
But another little hedgehog manages to wander off.
Pear is very curious and knows they need a nest,
So he is on his own hunt to see if moss or grass is best.
As he sniffs and wanders he forgets to look where he goes,
He bumps into a fizzy drink bottle and it gets stuck upon his nose.
With a shake and wiggle, Pear manages to break free,
“Why would someone throw that there? They should think about hogs like me.”

**Do you see any bins where people can put their rubbish?
Why do you think it's important to keep our parks tidy?**

Can you draw Pear stuck in the bottle? 



Meanwhile Thistle looks behind her and sees they've lost the others,
“Mummy, stop!” she cries. “Where are my sisters and my brothers?”
They look right and left, in front and behind,
They walk back the way they came and guess who they find?
Thorn is dripping water, Bramble's eyes are wide,
Pear talks about litter while Rosie gets tongue-tied.
Staying safe is important, that's what the hoglets learned,
Mummy hedgehog is relieved but also has concerns,
“Maybe next time,” she says to all. “We only come out when it's dark.”
“No, mum,” the hedgehogs reply. “We loved our day at the park!”

Can you draw the hedgehogs on their next adventure? 



*Now
it's your
turn to make
up your own
story about what
the hedgehogs
do on their
next visit to
the park.*



You could film yourself reading your own story or write it down and email it to getsuffolkreading@literacytrust.org.uk for us to share on social media for others to enjoy.

To find out more about Get Suffolk Reading, visit our website getsuffolkreading.org.uk or follow us on Facebook [@GetSuffolkReading](https://www.facebook.com/GetSuffolkReading).

Love Parks Week is a national campaign to celebrate and highlight the importance of our green spaces and the environment that is on our doorstep.

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