

# Scarecrow Fun



## Setting the Scene

The scarecrow is a key figure in autumn and harvest displays and celebrations. This activity seeks to engage the learners in the process of creating a class scarecrow, moving from a two dimensional to a three dimensional object. Be selective in your use of language and focus on a key area such as body parts, sensory experiences or verbs used.

## What to Do

Position the learners in a circle while you sing *Dingle, Dangle, Scarecrow* and bring the resources for the activity into view.

Lay the clothes flat out on the ground (if you are using separate trousers and top they will need to be roughly sewn together).

Introduce the wheat and corn. Encourage the learners to feel, smell and listen to them rustle as they move.

Do the same with the straw, encouraging and helping the learners to press it into a more solid shape (if the learners are not strong enough, give them a moulded shape to press for experience).

Stuff the clothes with the straw, getting the learners to help. Alternatively get the learners to hold onto the materials and feel the stuffing in the limbs and body grow. Remember to tie the ends of each limb to hold in the stuffing.

Draw a face on the paper bag and then (with support) fill it with straw. Put the bag over the end of one of the garden canes and tie around the neck to secure.

Push the cane through the body of the scarecrow (you may need to make a small hole between the legs for the cane to come through). Put a blob of sticky tack underneath to keep it in position and stop it sliding down the cane. Push the other cane through the arms.

Push the cane into the ground (or a pot of clay or parasol base) so that your scarecrow stands up.

Finally, add an old hat.

Explore the now vertical scarecrow with the learners. Get them to move around his body and view him from all sides.

**Sing the following to the learners:**

### The Floppy Scarecrow (Sung to the tune of *Sing a Song of Sixpence*)

The floppy, floppy scarecrow  
Guards his fields all day.  
He waves his floppy, floppy hands  
To scare the crows away (Repeat)

**Action:** Encourage the learners to flap their arms or dance like a scarecrow if appropriate.

## Further Suggestions

### Scarecrow stories

Read the story of *The Little Scarecrow Boy* by Margaret Wise Brown to the learners, adapting the length and language of the story as necessary.

### Lots of scarecrows

Explore pictures of a scarecrow. There are a wealth of images and photographs to be downloaded and displayed on a screen by carrying out an online search.

### Scarecrow yummys

To make scarecrow cookies go to [www.spoonful.com/recipes](http://www.spoonful.com/recipes)

## Areas of Learning

### Primary

Language and Literacy  
The Arts (Art and Design and Music)  
Physical Education

### Post-Primary

English  
The Arts (Art and Design and Music)  
Physical Education

## What You Need

- Old pair of trousers and a long-sleeved top
- Old hat
- Two garden canes
- Paper bag
- String
- Lots of straw for stuffing
- Old plastic bags or newspaper (alternatives for stuffing if you can't get straw)
- Needle and thread
- Sticky tack
- Wheat and corn
- Pot of clay/Parasol base