

Peekaboo Creatures

Explore animals, colours, and actions with the parachute through playful, interactive learning.

Let's Play!

Gather the babies and settle them safely around the edge of the parachute. Offer the opportunity for them to choose if they want to sit or lie down to experience the parachute, giving babies their own choice and voice. Gently lift and lower the parachute to create a calming, floating movement, and watch as their eyes follow the colours and gentle swaying above them.

Sing or say a simple phrase such as “Ble mae'r anifail?” (Where is the animal?) and respond with “Peekaboo! Dyma'r ci!” (Peekaboo! Here's the dog!). Reveal a soft animal toy by gently pulling it through the parachute or uncovering it from underneath, and use playful voices and animal sounds to catch their attention.

Repeat the game with different animals and colours, following the same structure to help babies become familiar with the rhythm and vocabulary. Notice their reactions - reaching, smiling, kicking, or babbling - and respond with gentle encouragement and praise. Talk constantly about what you're doing- as if you're giving a play-by-play: “when you lift your legs you are moving the parachute, helping babies associate words with actions and routines.

What you'll need:

- A small or large parachute (or lightweight sheet).
- A few soft animal toys or simple picture cards.
- A comfortable, safe space for babies to lie or sit.



Early developmental stages

This activity provides opportunities for:

Language Development

- Repetitive phrases like "Ble mae'r...?" and "Dyma'r..." support early understanding of question and answer structures.
- Exposure to key vocabulary: animal names, colours, and simple descriptive words.
- Sound-play and animal noises help link sounds to meaning (e.g., "Miaw" = cath / cat).
- Turn-taking language: even pre-verbal babies begin to learn social language cues like pause, response, and anticipation.

Cognitive Engagement

- Encourages object permanence (understanding that something exists even when hidden).
- Stimulates visual attention and auditory discrimination through movement, colours, and sound.

Movement and Sensory Development

- Eye tracking as the parachute moves above them.
- Reaching, kicking, and grasping as toys are revealed or passed.
- Opportunities for crossing their midline.
- Tactile stimulation from feeling the parachute or soft toys.
- Encourages head turning and neck strength.
- Supports the development of gross and fine motor skills.

Inclusive Play for All

Peekaboo Creatures is a gentle, adaptable game that welcomes all children, including those with additional learning needs, those at different stages of movement, and children from global majority backgrounds. All children can feel the sensation of the wind as the parachute moves up and down and notice the colours above them. Encourage reaching, pointing, and vocalising in any shape or form, repeating the noises they make. Offer soft, high-contrast toys, familiar animals, and varied sounds to engage different sensory needs. Whether a child is lying, sitting, crawling, or supported, they can enjoy the rhythm, anticipation, and joyful connections this play brings.

Useful Phrases:

- **Ble mae'r anifail?** Where is the animal?
- **Dyma'r...** Here's the...
- **Peekaboo!** Peekaboo!
- **Wyt ti'n gallu gweld y...?** Can you see the...?
- **Gwrandda – beth wyt ti'n clywed?** Listen – what do you hear?
- **Pa liw ydy hwn?** What colour is this?
- **Da iawn ti!** Well done you!
- **Eto!** Again!

Find the Creature

Explore animals, colours, and actions with the parachute through playful, interactive learning.

Let's Play:

Scatter a few soft toy animals (like a frog, duck, cat, or bear) on top of the parachute. Sit or stand around the edge with the children and gently shake or lift the parachute to make the creatures bounce and wiggle. Call out clues or questions in both languages, like “Ble mae'r gath?” / “Where's the cat?”

Encourage the children to crawl, toddle, or run to the creature you name. You can give hints like animal sounds (“Meow meow!” / “Ribbit ribbit!”) or colour clues (“It's yellow and it quacks!”). Once they find it, celebrate with “Da iawn ti!”

Let each child take a turn or encourage teamwork if you're playing in a larger group. Repeat with different animals, switching up the clues to keep the language rich and fun. The repetition helps children build their vocabulary and confidence, and the active searching adds excitement and movement to the learning. Keep the pace gentle, make space for all abilities, and most of all - have fun with the creatures!

What you'll need:

- Parachute - any size, bright colours work best for visual focus.
- Soft toy animals or puppets – choose a range (e.g. duck, frog, bear, cat).
- Optional colour mats or picture cards – for matching activities.
- Your voice and imagination! – for sound effects, clues, and playful language.

This activity provides opportunities for:

Language Development

- Encourages use of questioning and naming vocabulary in Welsh and English.
- Reinforces descriptive language: colours, sizes, positions (“mae o dan y barasiwt” / “it’s under the parachute”).
- Supports turn-taking language: “Nesaf ydy...?” / “Who’s next?”
- Promotes listening and responding to clues and instructions.
- Offers repetition of core words to strengthen understanding and recall.

Cognitive Engagement

- Involves problem-solving as children try to locate or guess which creature is hidden.
- Strengthens memory and recall through repetition and guessing games.
- Enhances attention and focus during hiding and revealing stages.
- Encourages prediction and reasoning: “Is it the cat? The pig?”
- Supports understanding of position and prepositions (e.g., under, next to, behind).

Movement and Sensory Development

- Encourages gross motor skills through lifting, shaking, or crawling under the parachute
- Builds fine motor skills when picking up or pointing to the creature
- Stimulates visual tracking and hand-eye coordination
- Provides rich tactile input through the textures of the parachute and soft toys
- Allows for adaptation to different movement stages—from reaching and pointing to crawling, walking, or jumping

Inclusive Play for All

Find the Creature is easily adapted to include all children, including those with additional learning needs and from global majority backgrounds. Use a mix of visuals, gestures, simple bilingual language, and sensory-rich props to ensure everyone can engage. Children can point, look, vocalise, or physically search—depending on their ability. Ensure the space is accessible, and allow plenty of time for responses. The game can be enjoyed sitting, lying down, or in supported positions, so every child can join in the excitement of discovery and feel valued in the group.

Useful Phrases:

- **Ble mae’r anifail?** Where is the animal?
- **Dewch i chwilio!** Let’s go and look!
- **Wyt ti’n gallu gweld y...?** Can you see the...?
- **Edrych o dan y barasiwt!** Look under the parachute!
- **Dyma fe! / Dyma hi!** Here it is!
- **Gwrandewch ar y sŵn...** Listen to the sound...
- **Pa liw wyt ti’n ei weld?** What colour do you see?
- **Pwy sy’n tro nawr?** Whose turn is it now?
- **Dewch i chwarae gyda’n gilydd!** Let’s play together!

Creature Chase!

Explore animals, colours, and actions with the parachute through playful, interactive learning.

Let's Play:

Pop one soft toy creature onto the middle of the parachute. Gather the children around the edge, standing or holding the handles. Start to gently shake or lift the parachute to make the creature bounce and slide. Build excitement by chanting together: "Un, dau, tri... Beth sy'n symud?" / "One, two, three... What's moving?"

As the creature moves, call out an action in both languages: "Rhedwch fel ci!" / "Run like a dog!", Encourage the children to move around the parachute copying the animal's movement. When the creature slows or stops, invite one child to chase and catch it - "Who will rescue the animal?". Celebrate each turn with praise: "Da iawn ti!"

Take turns or play in teams, using new animals, sounds, and actions each round. The mix of movement, sound, and simple bilingual language helps children build confidence, coordination, and vocabulary. Keep it inclusive by offering movement choices and letting everyone join in their own way - running, crawling, clapping, or cheering. Most importantly, keep it joyful and playful!

What you'll need:

- A large parachute.
- A selection of soft toy animals (e.g. rabbit, dog, snake, monkey).
- Open space – indoors or outdoors with room to move around safely.
- Your voice and imagination! – for sound effects, clues, and playful language.



Confident movers

This activity provides opportunities for:



Language Development

- Encourages bilingual vocabulary: animals, colours, actions.
- Supports understanding of action words through movement.
- Builds questioning and responding skills: “Beth sy’n symud?”
- Introduces sound-symbol connections using animal noises and matching words.
- Promotes turn-taking language and expressive phrases: “Fi nesaf!” / “My turn!”



Cognitive Engagement

- Develops listening and responding to instructions and clues.
- Strengthens memory and recall with repeated animals and actions.
- Supports pattern recognition and predictive thinking (“What animal will come next?”).
- Encourages choice-making and independent thinking.
- Fosters problem-solving in locating and responding to the animal’s movement.



Movement and Sensory Development

- Promotes gross motor skills: running, jumping, crawling, reaching.
- Enhances coordination and balance as children move with the parachute.
- Stimulates the vestibular and the proprioception systems with lifting, bouncing, and chasing movements.
- Provides visual tracking of moving objects (creatures on parachute).
- Offers multi-sensory input: sight, touch, sound, and body movement.

Inclusive Play for All

Creature Chase is a highly adaptable activity that welcomes all children, including those with additional learning needs and from global majority backgrounds. Offer a range of ways to take part—children can move around the parachute, point, vocalise, or use eye gaze or gestures to engage. Use visual supports, clear bilingual language, and repetition to support understanding. Adjust the pace to suit the group, and allow for supported movement or alternative roles, like helping choose the next animal or leading the chant. Celebrate every contribution and make sure every child feels included.

Useful Phrases:

- **Neidio fel...** Jump like a...
- **Rhedeg fel...** Run like a...
- **Cerdded yn araf fel...** Walk slowly like a...
- **Symud!** Move!
- **Stop!** Stop!
- **Pwy sy’n mynd nesaf?** Who’s going next?
- **Da iawn ti!** Well done you!
- **Beth sy’n symud?** What’s moving?
- **Ydych chi’n barod?** Are you ready?



**Early Years
Wales**
**Blynyddoedd
Cynnar Cymru**

