

TORMEAD

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Phil the Fire Engine Books

Having a class of 16 4-5 year old girls, I was initially rather dubious about how the girls would react to Phil! However, as soon as I showed the books, they were immediately involved in the characters. They were particularly impressed that one of the fire fighters was a girl!

The girls responded positively to the bright pictures and encouraged them to think about why a fire engine is red etc. 'The House Fire' story enabled the girls to think about how the little boy felt during different parts of the story. They were able to share their previous experiences as some had already visited a fire station and talked about the uniform the fire fighters wear. However, they had to be encouraged to think further about the purpose of the uniform. During 'The Barn Fire', the girls' attention was drawn to the parts of the fire engine and their purpose.

Both books illustrated the importance of the role of the fire fighter as well as emphasising the importance of keeping safe. The books certainly kept the girls' attention and stimulated much talking!

The power point was useful in highlighting some of the detail in the pictures and at a later date, the girls were able to retell parts of the story, using the pictures.

Since reading the story, the books have been available in the Book Corner and I have observed several girls using the books and retelling the story.

As well as using the books as a starting point for work linked to 'People who help us', I would also use them when exploring 'feelings' and 'good and bad choices'.

Yours sincerely,

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