

Session idea

Silly Squad

What it is

Join in this year's online Summer Reading Challenge for children and young people, and enjoy activities together with grandchildren, family and friends. www.sillysquad.org.uk

How it works

- 🕒 **Read together** funny books, silly poems, comics, or limericks. Find a tongue twister and challenge each other to say it as fast as possible.
- 🗨️ **Talk about** any silly things you've done or something funny you've seen. What makes you laugh? What is your favourite type of humour? E.g. jokes, puns, stand-up, slapstick.
- 🧠 **Think about** your favourite joke, silly story, silly poem or riddle.
- 🎵 **Sing together** silly songs and songs with the words changed.
- 🎭 **Have fun** sharing and swapping jokes and doing silly activities, e.g. changing the words of poems, writing silly stories, making simple comics for each other and sending them in the post.
- 📺 **Look at** the Silly Squad characters, cartoons, picture books, DVDs, streamed films – and the Silly Squad videos of children's authors and illustrators reading and drawing.
- 📺 **Watch** the video of Judi Dench sharing jokes with her grandson. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fM2aI0266ZA>

How did it go?

- Take photos or a screen shot to capture the session – and (with permissions) share on social media.
- Get feedback about the session from participants about what they enjoyed most.
- Think about what worked well and anything you would change.
- Keep each session plan plus feedback notes, for future use and for sharing with other Reading Friends projects.



For groups and one-to-ones in whatever way you can connect with friends, and the children in your family. This could be online, by phone, by posting things – or face-to-face if safe to do so.

✓ Tips

Have multiple copies of activities or reading material in clear, large print.

Grandparents and grandchildren could chat and share activities by email, text, WhatsApp and Skype.

✓ Resources

Check your local library for online Silly Squad activities – and if the library is open you may be able to borrow picture books, poem and joke books, CDs and DVDs.

The Silly Squad Resource Pack, available in the Reading Friends Resources Library.