



30 Simple Play Ideas

Jack and the Beanstalk



Just a little note before you begin

You don't need a themed tray every day, and you certainly don't need giant castles or complicated crafts to make Jack and the Beanstalk meaningful for young children. This is a story that works best when it stays close to real experiences — planting beans, noticing what changes, building something tall together, climbing, counting and returning to the story again and again. Sometimes the simplest starting point is the best one.

Plant the beans and watch the magic grow.

DAY 1

Plant beans in pots and watch how they change each day.

DAY 2

Make simple "magic bean" muffins together.

DAY 3

Roll green playdough into long snakes to build a beanstalk.

DAY 4

Paint a large shared beanstalk picture together.

DAY 5

Sing I'm a Little Beanstalk using stretching and growing actions.

DAY 6

Make an obstacle course to climb the beanstalk and escape the giant.

DAY 7

Stack blocks to build tall towers like the beanstalk.

DAY 8

Push dried beans into playdough to make "magic beans".

DAY 9

Talk about how Jack might have felt at different parts of the story.

DAY 10

Transport beans through tubes, ramps or gutters.

DAY 11

Go on a leaf and stick collecting walk to build your own beanstalk.

DAY 12

Bake leaf-shaped or cloud-shaped biscuits. (No sugar)

DAY 13

Scoop and pour beans using spoons and containers.

DAY 14

Explore shaving foam clouds with hidden "magic beans".

DAY 15

Sing Fee-fi-fo-fum loudly and quietly together while acting out the giant.

DAY 16

Balance blocks to build the tallest beanstalk possible.

DAY 17

Use mirrors to practise happy, scared and brave faces like Jack.

DAY 18

Act out "Fee-fi-fo-fum" together using different voices.

DAY 19

Measure how tall your beanstalk tower can grow.

DAY 20

Hide dried beans in a sensory tray for children to find.

DAY 21

Draw a giant beanstalk on the ground with chalk and climb along it together.

DAY 22

Blend a green smoothie and call it beanstalk juice.

DAY 23

Use puppets to retell the story together.

DAY 24

Make cloud dough using flour and oil for sky play at the top of the beanstalk.

DAY 25

Sing Row, Row, Row Your Boat pretending to travel up to the giant's castle in the clouds.

DAY 26

Count beans into cups while naming numbers together.

DAY 27

Retell the story using small world figures and blocks.

DAY 28

Climb along a chalk beanstalk path outdoors.

DAY 29

Create a story basket with beans, feathers, leaves and a toy hen to explore.

DAY 30

Fill a tray with green rice and story objects like coins, leaves and beans.