

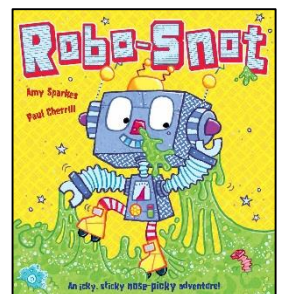


Robo-Snot

**Written by Amy Sparkes and
illustrated by Paul Cherrill**

1 – Introducing the book

- Ask children if they have ever had a cold. Talk about the symptoms you experience, including a blocked, runny nose. Explain that in this story, the little robot has a big snotty problem.
- How does the little robot feel at the beginning of the story to have produced all this snot? What happens when he performs at the concert? Why does everyone else start sneezing? How does Little Robot's sister save the day? What do you think might have happened if she didn't step in?



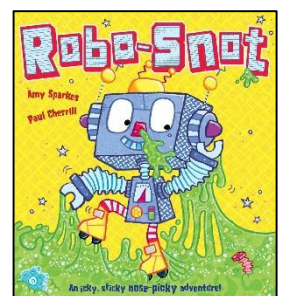


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2 – Catch it, bin it, kill it

- Explain to children that your body produces ‘snot’, also known as mucus, to help stop germs and bacteria from getting into your lungs and airways. If it’s colourless, that means you are healthy, but if the snot has turned green or yellow, it’s a sign that your body is fighting off an infection.
- In the story, the little robot sneezes and then all the other robots start sneezing too. When you sneeze, the germs can travel out of your nose at up to 100 miles per hour, and get spread over a distance of 2-3 metres! Germs are also spread from your mouth and nose onto your hands, and can then be transferred to others easily. Germs can live on hard surfaces for up to 24 hours, so it’s important to wash your hands when you’ve sneezed. Ideally, sneeze into a tissue and then put it in the bin. Ask children to make a poster to remind others to use a tissue when they sneeze, and to remember to wash hands regularly.



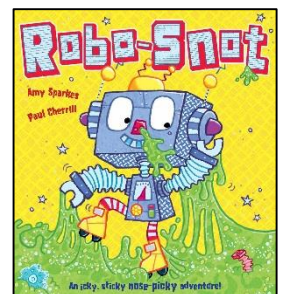


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3 – It's slime-time

- Help children to make their own robo-snot (play dough) to have fun with. Combine 150g flour, 75g salt and 2 tbsps cream of tartar in a bowl and mix well. Add several drops of green food colouring to 375ml boiling water and then add 2 tbsps baby oil and 3-5 drops of glycerin. Mix with the dry ingredients and then knead the resulting dough for several minutes. You can make the robo-snot look more exciting by adding glitter to it. If the dough is too watery, just add a bit more flour. You can store the robo-snot in an air tight container and re-use it. If it begins to dry out just mix a little baby oil with it to give it a new lease of life.
- Make some germ pictures using blow painting. Mix water colour or poster paint with water. Put a few drops on a piece of paper using a paintbrush, and then use a straw to blow it across the page. By turning the paper round, the paint can be easily blown in different directions. Once the paint is dry, add googly eyes and use a black felt tip to add a scary zig-zag mouth to each 'germ'.





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4 – Little Robot on the loose

- Look closely at the features of the different robots that feature in the story. Encourage children to create their own little robots using junk modelling, with pipe cleaner antennae, concertina paper arms and bottle top buttons, plus lots of silver foil of course!
- Children could also explore making robot pictures with different 2-D cut-out shapes, exploring their different properties and how they fit together.

