



Mrs Mactavish Goes to the Beach

I use an old-fashioned bicycle basket for this story, but you could substitute a bag or rucksack instead. Bicycle bells are cheap to buy and make a great noise. But other forms of transport could also be used (train whistles are very satisfying as well!) A wave drum or large rain stick is very useful for making a sea sound. For the heat of the sun I use a hand warmer heat pad (of the kind that you get in outdoor shops) put inside a small bag.

Most of the other props for this story are things you would have around for your own trips to the beach! You can substitute any props that you have handy and that suit the needs of the children you are telling the story to (e.g. Sunglasses, beach balls, arm bands, bucket and spade, small battery-operated radio).

(‘Stage directions’ are in brackets, blue text and italics - these should not be read out.)

Mrs Mactavish packed her basket.

Mrs Mactavish packed her basket and put in towel.

Mrs Mactavish packed her basket and put in some sun cream.

Mrs Mactavish packed her basket and put in a newspaper.

Mrs Mactavish packed her basket and put in a towel, some sun cream and a newspaper.

Mrs Mactavish got on her bike. *(Bike bell)*

She went up the hill and down the hill and up the hill and down the hill and up the hill and down the hill *(Use bike bell as you say this, and mime going up and down the hills.)*

Up the hill and down the hill and up the hill and down the hill...

And up the hill and down the hill and up the hill and down the hill...

Until she came to the beach.

The waves crashed.

The sun was hot.

The waves crashed and the sun was hot.

Mrs Mactavish shook out her towel. *(Shake out the towel and let children feel the air wafting as you flap it)*

Mrs Mactavish put on some sun cream. *(Put some sun cream on the children's hands if appropriate)*

Mrs Mactavish got out her newspaper. *(Do a lot of newspaper rustling)*

Ah...Lovely! *(Repeat a few times as you use the wave noise and heat.)*

But watch out Mrs Mactavish! Here comes the rain...

It's raining on the hills!

It's raining on the fields!

It's raining on the beach! *(Getting louder)*

It's raining on Mrs Mactavish! *(Say this with increasing drama. On the last line spray the children with some water, if appropriate)*

Mrs Mactavish packed her basket.

Mrs Mactavish packed her basket and put in her towel.

Mrs Mactavish packed her basket and put in her sun cream.

Mrs Mactavish packed her basket and put in her newspaper. *(This time pack in a hurry – exaggerate this e.g. with the newspaper scrumple it up in to a little ball and shove it in the basket.)*

Mrs Mactavish got on her bike. *(Bike bell)*

She went up the hill and down the hill and up the hill and down the hill and up the hill and down the hill *(Very quickly this time, ringing the bell urgently.)*

Up the hill and down the hill and up the hill and down the hill... *(Gradually slow down and calm down)*

...until she got home just in time for a nice cup of tea! *(Tea cup and teaspoon – stir the cup with the spoon)*

Notes on telling

Tell this story about anyone – it doesn't have to be Mrs Mactavish! It can be amusing to tell it about someone the children know e.g. the head teacher. You could also tell it about the whole class going to the beach, and use lots of bike bells! Take your time with the 'up the hills and down the hills' as this gives a sense of a journey. If appropriate you could

encourage the signs for 'up' and 'down'. It's also good to linger over the heat and the waves (where the story says 'Lovely') to indicate the passing of time. The rain getting closer should be funny and a wee bit menacing!

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I would love to hear your feedback or comments on this story – please email me if you get a chance: info@flotsamandjetsam.co.uk

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