

# 5 Children and It - Project in a Day



The author Edith Nesbit (married name Edith Bland) was an English author and poet, born 15<sup>th</sup> August 1858.

She published approximately 40 books for children, including novels, collections of stories and picture books under the name of E Nesbit. Collaborating with others, she published almost as many more.

Today we are looking at 5 Children and It which was published in 1902 and part of a trilogy. It tells the story of 5 children who move from London to the countryside of Kent. During their adventures they come upon a Psammead (sand fairy), on a beach, who has the ability to grant wishes.....and so their exploits begin.

## Activity 1:

Watch a short animation film which will give you the basic story and the idea of the first wish:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdFDnvgTbZY>

Then talk about feelings / emotions that you may feel when visiting the city, fairground and the beach:



## Activity 2 - Make your own sand fairy.



We decided to sew our sand fairy but you could draw, colour, paint, collage, use playdough, construction materials, junk modelling using recycled materials or use foliage from outside - it's all about using your imagination. The instructions to sew your sand fairy are on the following page.

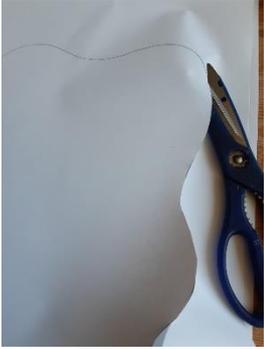
## Extra activities:

- Make your own wish jar
- Write a diary entry when you find the sand fairy
- Design your own front cover using your sand fairy
- Create a memory game by hiding items / words around a garden / in a sandpit / around a house
- Write a story about finding something else in a different place and what happens....

## Sewing Instructions for our creature / sand fairy.



Firstly draw the basic body / arms / legs shape on a sheet of paper (ours was A3 size) - remember not make it too small or thin limbs as will be hard to sew and then subsequently stuff.



Next cut out the paper template.



Then you may need some help with this part as you need to pin the template onto your material. Make sure the material is doubled so you don't have to cut the same shape twice! Then using some sharp scissors (with adult supervision please) to cut out your basic shape.



At this point you need to take the pieces apart and decorate the front. If you have a sewing needle and thread you can sew on facial features or you can just glue anything into place.

Make sure you only do the sewing with one piece of material!



Finally, once you have decorated the front, place the 2 pieces of fabric together and sew with a running stitch all the way round and quite near the edge - make sure you are sewing through both pieces. The stitch mustn't be too big otherwise the stuffing will fall out.

Continue around the edge but leave a gap to put stuffing inside - you can use anything for this if you don't have toy stuffing: rice, fabric, wool, paper etc. Then sew up the gap and you have your creature. You can always stick on more detail once it's made.

*Hope you have enjoyed making your own imaginary toy creature.*