



Alice Hemming
Children's Author



It's Pancake Time!

Fun with pancakes (and words)

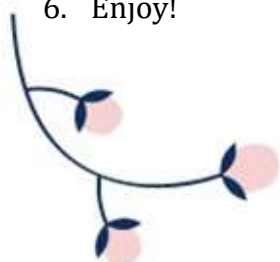


In 2015, I was lucky enough to work on the English translation of *It's Pancake Time!* This lovely, brightly-coloured book by Estonian author-illustrator Kertu Sillaste. The book follows some animals making (and eating) pancakes, and is full of fun onomatopoeic words.

I enjoyed coming up with words for each action. The trickiest one was the flour hitting the bowl. I favoured *Plomf!* but my editor preferred *Pfff!*

It inspired me to come up with the following activity, which works well for Y2 and Y3 but can be adapted for different age groups and abilities.

1. Without mentioning the pancake theme, share the following words with the child/children: **Crack, Splosh, Pffff, Whisk, Swirl, Sizzle, Flip, Yum.** Can they guess what you are doing just from the words? I use a printout of each word on a laminated sheet so that they can read them as I go along.
2. If they can't guess, then introduce actions and/or props, e.g. a bouncy rubber egg for *crack*, or a plastic jug for the *splosh* of the milk.
3. When they have guessed, discuss onomatopoeia and how sound words create pictures in our minds. They are also fun to say!
4. Try coming with some sound words for different activities, e.g. getting dressed in the morning, or making a cup of tea. You can make lists of onomatopoeic words they already know, like *zip* and *crackle* and *plop*, or make up your own.
5. If possible, make some pancakes, *swirling* and *sizzling* as you go!
6. Enjoy!



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I'd love to see any work based on the above activity. Please share online:



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