

# Toddler Preschool Language:

## The Little Red Hen Adventure

### Learning Value:

This activity promotes development and learning by encouraging children to understand and interact with books and text.

### Materials Needed:

- ▶ *The Little Red Hen* (numerous versions are available online or through digital libraries)

### Participants:

This activity is intended for independent play, adult/child interaction, or 2 or more participants/players.

### Directions:

**Step 1:** Read or tell the story to your child. Depending on your child's age and interest, talk about the story. What happened first? What happened next? What happened last? What would your child do if they were the Little Red Hen?

**Step 2:** Act the story out with your child. Assign someone to be the hen, the cat, the pig, etc. If your child is interested, you can make simple props to go with the story. Another option is to draw the animals on cardstock, cut them out, and attach them to craft sticks for puppets.

**Step 3:** Retell the story over several days. Depending on your child's interest, you could change the characters, the scenario, or the ending. Find fractured fairy tale versions online, such as "The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza" by Philomen Sturges and Amy Waldren for inspiration. Staple copy paper to make a booklet and help your child write and illustrate the story.

### Learn More:

- ▶ Make bread together (or a pizza).
- ▶ Offer play dough and pans to pretend to bake bread.
- ▶ Learn more about farms or the history of harvesting grain. What tools were used in the past? What tools are used today?
- ▶ In a large bowl, dissolve 1 tablespoon yeast and 1 tablespoon sugar in 1 cup warm water. Wait 15 to 30 minutes and watch the yeast bubble and expand. [Talk with your child about why the yeast is expanding.](#)