

Croydon

Sanderstead Park Story Trail



Welcome

This trail is aimed at children aged 2 to 5 and their families and carers.

Follow the map and the story of Uncle Josh, Mia, Kai and Tufty the dog to explore your park. What can you see and do? Can you tick off each activity?

Remember to stay safe, keep your distance from other families and sanitise your hands.

Read the story aloud to your little explorers and have fun chatting and playing along the route.

You may want to bring some blank paper and pencils so your little ones can make the most out of the trail – we would love to see photos of your little ones carrying out the activities!

This walk will take up to **30 mins**, depending on your pace.

Tufty



Mia



Uncle Josh



Kai



Sanderstead Park Story Trail

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1

Entrance

'Trees!' said Kai as they entered the park.

'Lots of trees,' agreed his big sister, Mia.

'Do you know what that one is?' asked their Uncle Josh.

Mia nodded and pointed. 'That's a birch, that's a beech and that's a... helicopter leaf tree.'

'Wow,' said Uncle Josh. 'How did you know all those?'

Mia shrugged. 'We have a book about trees at Pre-School.'

'Tell me their names again?' Uncle Josh asked.

'Birch... beech...' said Mia.

'Peach!'

shouted Kai. Uncle Josh and Mia giggled.

'Reach!' said Uncle Josh rhyming and stretching up high.

'Squeatch!'

said Mia, doing a star jump.

Yap yap yap! barked Uncle Josh's scruffy little dog, Tufty.

'How many trees are there?' asked Uncle Josh.

'One... two... seven...'

said Kai.

They set off down the path counting trees as they went.

Use your pencil and paper to note down how many trees you can count. Or you could place your paper on the trees and rub your pencil over the top of it, look at the different patterns each tree creates!



Pine tree and row of trees

2

Can you play hide-and-
seek between the trees?



‘Big tree,’ said Kai.

‘Yes, that’s a big pine tree,’
said Uncle Josh.

‘It’s not just a pine tree,’ said
Mia, then she hid behind its
large trunk and poked her
head out. ‘It’s a magical tree.
This is an enchanted forest!’

‘Peekaboo!’ said Kai, hiding
behind another tree.

‘That’s exciting,’ said Uncle Josh. ‘Are
there any magical creatures here?’

Ruff ruff! said Tufty.

‘Shhhh!’ said Mia. ‘There are tiny tree
people all round. But they’re scared
of big people. Don’t wake them up!’

Carefully, quietly, they all tiptoed
along the row of trees looking for
tiny tree people.



3

Hedge gateway

‘Ah-ha!’ said Mia.

‘Ta-da?’ asked Kai.

‘Look – here’s the magic gate,’ said Mia, leading them through a small gap in the hedge.

They came out onto a beautiful, green rolling hill, with more woodland in the distance.

‘Ta-da!’

shouted Kai and started rolling down the hill.

Uncle Josh laughed, then pointed at the ground. ‘Look – clover,’ he said. ‘Can you find any four-leaf ones?’

‘Why?’ asked Mia.

‘They’re supposed to be good luck,’

said Uncle Josh. Then he helped Kai up from his rolling and they hunted for four-leaf clover in the grass.

Use your paper and pencil to write down the other flowers you can spot in the grass.





Climbing tree

Back in the park, they followed the path through the trees. Then Mia gasped loudly.

‘What’s wrong?’ asked Uncle Josh.

‘Absolutely nothing,’ said Mia.

‘Look!’

And she ran over to a tree with thick, low branches. She jumped up to grab one then swung her legs up.

‘Me help!’ said Kai and Uncle Josh gave him a lift up onto the branch.

‘Now we’re so high up we’re giants,’ said Mia.

‘Fee, fi, fo, fum?’

asked Kai, and they all laughed.

Can you climb the climbing tree?

How high can you get?



Bench by row of trees

5

Use your paper and pencil to write down all of the sounds you have heard in the park.



‘Red leaves,’ said Kai, pointing to one of the trees by a bench. They all sat down.

‘Well done, Kai!’ said Uncle Josh.

‘There are so many different trees here,’ said Mia. ‘Because... once upon a time, there were tiny people and giants living in the wood. But the giants kept stepping on the tiny people and squashing them! So the tiny people spoke to the giants and asked them to stop. The giants felt so bad that they turned themselves into trees where the tiny people could live.’

‘The trees are all different giants?’ asked Uncle Josh.

‘Of course!’ said Mia. ‘And the different colour leaves are their different coloured hair. Because it doesn’t matter what you look like, if you’re big or small –

the park is for everyone. No one should get squashed. Ooh, did you hear that?’

‘Birds?’ asked Kai

‘Could be birds, could be tiny people talking...’ said Mia.



Playground and tea room

6

‘I wonder if there are any giants or tiny people here?’ asked Uncle Josh when they reached the playground.

‘Nope, just the swings and slide!’ said Mia and, taking Kai’s hand, they raced in together to play.

Which was your favourite tree in the park? Why don’t you draw a picture of your favourite tree on the trail!



Well done, you made it to the end of the Story Trail!

We would love to have your feedback. Please click here to answer some questions and be in with the chance of winning a prize!

Click here to complete this short survey

You can find more fun activities to add to your routine at wordsforlife.org.uk and hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk

You can also join the online conversation using the hashtag **#HLMStoryTrails**

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