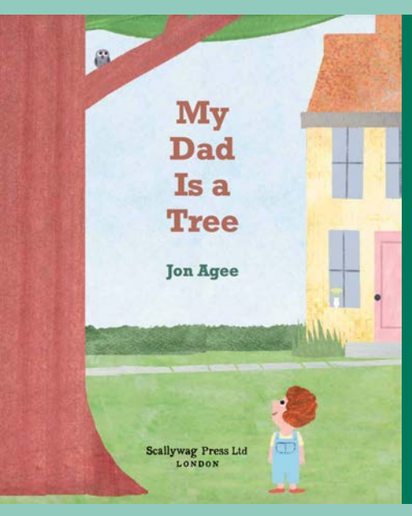
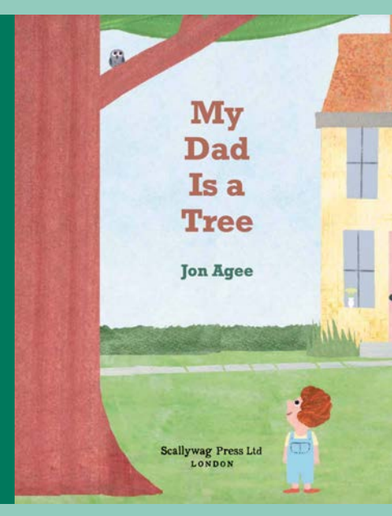
My Dad Is a Tree
By Jon Agee



This is a hilarious and sweet picture book about a dad and his daughter who take pretend play to a new level as the little girl persuades her father to be a tree all day long, no matter what, even in the rain! This picture book will inspire all kinds of imaginative play – the ideas below will help develop and support that imaginative play!



Pretend – you could pretend to be a tree just like the little girl in the book or perhaps you could pretend to be something else that you find outdoors...a lamppost? A flower? A postbox?

Decorate – decorate a tree by adding leaves, fabric, wool, wood, and more. This is such a creative activity but also great for working on fine motor skill development as well as hand-eye coordination.

Act it out – why not act out the story from, 'My Dad Is a Tree'. Think about the props you might need e.g. a broom, a birds nest, some of the animals from the story etc.

Messy play – messy play is the open-ended exploration of materials & their properties. Try setting up a water tray (inspired by the rain in the story) and fill it with natural objects.

Role play area – 'My Dad Is a Tree', is set outside in the garden. You could set up a role play area as a garden scene where children can explore and play.

Puppets – playing with puppets can support children's wellbeing as they can role-play different scenarios. Encourage the children to make puppets from the book to help them retell the story.

Loose parts play – Loose parts play is when children use a collection of natural or man-made materials to expand their play. They can be moved, arranged, designed, taken apart and more! You could collect natural objects from your garden, local park or outdoor space and set up a loose parts play space for children to explore.

Have fun!