



more about

MY SMILE HAS FALLEN DOWN

for parents/caregivers/teachers

My Smile Has Fallen Down is a show for 5-7 year olds about mental health, about fear and anxiety and about the power of listening, of finding your voice and of keeping going.

Created by Dan in partnership with early years director Anna Newell and with Touched Theatre in Brighton who have extensive experience in working with puppetry with young people with mental health issues, MY SMILE HAS FALLEN DOWN aims to tell a story that explores fear, sadness and other difficult emotions that we know that even the youngest child can experience - and to do this in a way that makes sense to them. It doesn't pretend that there are easy answers but takes them on a journey where Dan finds his own resilience and his voice, and a way to get up and face the day, whatever it may bring.

Because of the themes explored in the show, we have put together this pack of supporting information about this production for you to use with your child/children in any way that you feel is useful before seeing the show. Please feel free to contact us on anna@annanewell.ie if you have any questions.

An introduction to MY SMILE HAS FALLEN DOWN

Where has Mr Hoppity the rabbit gone? Did he not want to be with his friends anymore? Did he run away? Has he been eaten by the Bed Monster?!

Gagglegoose thinks it might have something to do with Jelly Beans, Mrs Fox is very sure that the Bed Monster doesn't exist, Mr Fox can't get a word in and Grumble Skunk is just too cross about everything to be much help!

MY SMILE HAS FALLEN DOWN is a story about Dan who can't get out of bed and doesn't know why. On his journey through his worries and out the other side are the soft toys that live with him on his bed who both help and hinder him. Helped by the toys, Dan faces his fears, conquers his lack of confidence and finds ways to cope with his anxieties. Together they defeat the fear of the Bed Monster and find hope in friendship and listening to each other.

MY SMILE HAS FALLEN DOWN is a show for a very audience capacity which allows the children to sit close to the action so that they can see the action with the small toys unfold. The setting is flexible so that if there are children who would prefer to sit further away, that's absolutely possible. The show lasts about 35 minutes in total. The show is performed by Dan and by Niamh. Dan is in the bed for the whole show and Niamh is a hidden puppeteer who operates some of the toys and who also creates the magic that means the bed can move! There are songs in the show as well.

On the next few pages is an outline of the story with some photos from the show. If you feel it would help your child/children to know the outline of the story up ahead of time, please feel free to use this in any way that you feel will support their experience. If you or they have any questions before coming to the show, please don't hesitate to contact us and we'll do our best to answer them.

MY SMILE HAS FALLEN DOWN

Story outline

Dan is asleep in his bed when the audience arrive along with his toys.



He wakes up and tosses and turns, trying to get back to sleep but he can't get comfortable which makes him cross. He starts playing with Grumble Skunk who is quite cross all the time. Grumble Skunk sings a song about being cross.



Gagglegoose wakes up. Gagglegoose is quite anxious and the thing he is most scared of is Jelly Beans! He's been having a bad dream about Jelly Beans.



Mr & Mrs Fox wake up. Mr Fox has been trying to have a chat with Mrs Fox for ages but she doesn't listen to him.



The toys start to sing a song about getting up that they sing every day. Everyone has their own bit of the song. But the song gets stuck because Mr Hoppity, the Rabbit isn't there to sing his bit. And they realise that Mr Hoppity is missing. Mrs Fox asks everyone if they can remember when they last saw Mr Hoppity. She also asks the two bears who sit on the top corner of the bed – Stitches (who laughs all the time) and Sorrow (who cries all the time)



But nobody has seen Mr Hoppity. Suddenly a tiny bad mouse appears. His name is Jeremy and he is horrible to everyone! He says that maybe their friend Mr Hoppity went away because he didn't like them!



Gagglegoose has an idea that maybe Mr Hoppity fell off the bed and was eaten by the Bed Monster. Mrs Fox says firmly to him that there is no such thing as the Bed Monster.



But bad mouse Jeremy has planted the seed of the idea and they all sing about what they think the Bed Monster looks like. Mrs Fox says again that there is no such thing – and that because they all have different ideas of what it looks like, it's not real!



Mrs Fox tells them that if they need to believe that they can find Mr Hoppity and then they will. They all agree that they believe.

There is a quiet rumble from under the bed but they don't hear it. Maybe it's just in their imaginations?

Gagglegoose's anxiety gets the better of him and he sings a song called What If? which is all about his worries which gets more and more ridiculous.



There is another quiet rumble from under the bed and the animals decide that they need to look under the bed to try and find Mr Hoppity. Mr Fox is fed up with not being listened to and being called useless and so he volunteers to have a look under the bed.

Jeremy, the bad mouse, appears and is nasty to Mr Fox and sings a song about being afraid



The song makes Mr Fox feel that he can't go looking for Mr Hoppity and his fear overwhelms him.

The bed starts moving and all the animals are thrown around.



Mr & Mrs Fox find each other in the chaos and he finally gets her to listen to him which is what he wanted and needed all along.



Her listening and him being able to speak makes the bed go back to normal. They check around and everyone is safe.

And Mr Hoppity is back!



He has been lost but he's found again. And he's brought Gagglegoose a present – a bag of Jelly Beans!!! Gagglegoose runs

around in panic but Mr Fox suggests he try them. And we find out that he's never tried Jelly Beans. He tries them and likes them A LOT.

The animals decide to sing the song now that Mr Hoppity is back. But Mr Hoppity can't remember his bit of the song...



But Dan can. Dan finally finds his voice and sings the end of the song. Mr Hoppity says 'it's good to hear your voice, Dan'. With the help of his animal friends, Dan has faced his fears and found his voice and he can now get out of bed.

THE END