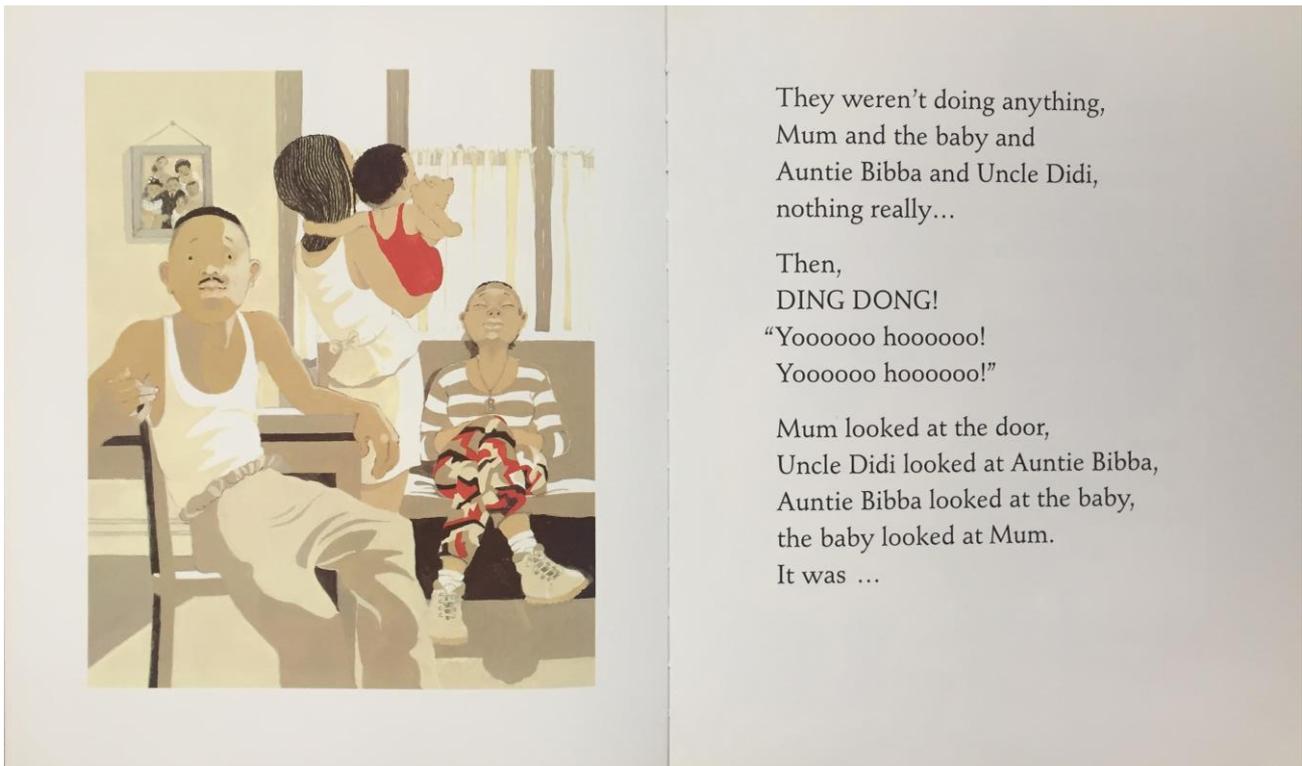


Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

So Much by Trish Cooke, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury (Walker)

1. Explore it

Read aloud the spread below, and spend time looking at the illustration together:



Talk together about what you have read and seen, focussing on the setting, characters and what is happening. Where is this story taking place? How do you know? Who is in this story? What do you know about them? What is happening here? What are the people doing? How are they feeling? How does the picture help show you this?

Talk about how this scene relates to your own life. Have you ever been at home with your family where you **'weren't doing anything'**? How did it feel?

Now think about what might happen on the next page. Who do you think might be at the door? Why do you think this?

2. Illustrate it

Think about the people you can see in the house; Mum, the baby, Auntie Bibba and Uncle Didi. Who might be ringing at the door? Do you think it is someone they already know? Think about the way they call **"Yooooooo hooooooo! Yooooooo hooooooo!"** – would a postman or a stranger do this? Finish the sentence at

the end of the page: *'It was...'* What do you think this person looks like? Look at the way the illustrator has drawn the rest of the family in the picture and think about the visitor outside the door. Is it just one person? Do they look similar to anyone in the picture or do they look different? Are they young or old? Do they have short hair like Uncle Didi, braids like Mum, or something totally different? What are they wearing? What do you think their face looks like? Does *"Yoooooo hoooooo! Yoooooo hoooooo!"* make you think they are happy and smiling, sad and frowning or something else?

When you have an idea of who might be behind the door, fold a piece of paper or card in half, like a greeting card and draw a door on the front. You can then open the card and draw who you think is behind it. Share your card with someone else; let them open the door and tell them who is inside – were they surprised?

3. Talk about it

Re-read the page again, and talk about the family scene that you see:

- Do you have aunties and uncles? What are they like? Who else is in your family?
- Do you have friends and relatives that come to visit you? What do you like to do when they come round to see you?
- Think about the sound the doorbell makes 'DING DONG' Can you think of other words that end with the same sound /ng/? How about **ring** or **song**?

4. Imagine it

What does it feel like to sit and do nothing? Take a few minutes to just sit somewhere and do nothing, turn off the TV, put your toys away and just sit like Auntie Bibba and Uncle Didi or just look out of the window like Mum and the baby. Is it relaxing? Boring? Ask other people in the house to do the same. Do you all feel the same way or does it feel different to different people?

Can you think of something that the family could do together in the house? What do you like to do with your family? You could write your ideas down in a letter, imagining that you could post it through the door to them.

5. Create it

Think about your own family. What special memories do you have of moments that you have spent together? It might be an everyday event, like watching TV together or eating a meal together, or an exciting and special memory like a party, trip or holiday. It might involve lots of family members or just one person.

Draw a picture of the family moment you are thinking of; you could write some words about this moment to describe what was happening or how you were feeling. Talk about your drawing with other people in your family. Do they remember this moment too? What are their special memories of being together as a family? You could draw or write about other moments and put these into a scrapbook or empty jar to make a memory book or jar of special memories. You can then open these up at different times and talk about your special times together.