
The Blacksmith's Shop

~ Tess McNatt

The Blacksmith's Shop (or Farrier's Shop) is a way to imaginatively address children who are running inside.

Invite the child or children who are running to come to your blacksmith's shop. The child sits in your lap and you (the blacksmith) check that the pony's shoes (the child's slippers) are on securely. Pretend to hammer nails into the soles of the slippers, rub the tops of feet with pressure, check that slippers are on securely (fasten Velcro, take them off and make a big gesture of putting them back on with care, etc.) I often make up a little song on the spot that I repeat for each "customer."

Once the blacksmith's job is complete, the pony is ready and able to walk again.

You will find that children line up for the blacksmith's shop regardless of whether they were running or not. Children often purposefully put their slippers on the wrong way so that there is a need to come to the blacksmith.

Happy hammering! ♦

Tess McNatt is a kindergarten teacher at Edinburgh Steiner School located in Edinburgh, Scotland. She is originally from Maryland, and worked there as an early childhood special education teacher before life took her to Corvallis, OR and then Edinburgh. Tess is always keen to collaborate, so don't be shy to reach out or come and visit Scotland!
