

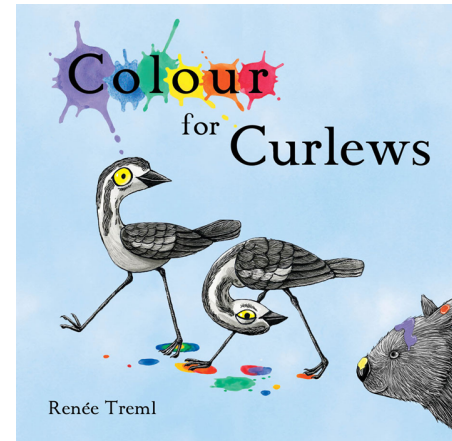
LEARNING TIME

Colour for Curlews by Renée Trembl

Two curious curlews find some paint and set about decorating themselves and their birdie friends. A rhyming story that uses colour mixing to maximum effect!

Key Message for Parents | The brain develops through use

- Enjoyment and engagement with age appropriate stories stimulates brain development
- Children explore the world by using their bodies and all their senses
- Participating in developmentally appropriate experiences support positive brain development.



Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners.

- Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, creativity, enthusiasm and imagination
- Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating

Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Good Morning

*Good morning to you
Good morning to you
Good morning everybody
and welcome to you!*

Song: It's a Rainbow by Janet Channon & Wendy Jensen

This song is an echo song so it's easy for everyone to join in. It's nice to hold up, or point to, a coloured object the same colour as each line in the song as you sing. Have them laid out in order before you begin!

*Take a little bit of red
And a little bit orange
Add a stripe of yellow
And a stripe of green
A little bit of blue
A bit of indigo
Don't forget the violet
Then what do you know
It's a rainbow*



*A little bit of rain
A little bit of sun
When they come together they make rainbow fun
It's a rainbow
A wonderful, wonderful, magical, magical, colourful, colourful
Shining rainbow*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O69ESwFDaMA>

Also available on iTunes and Spotify

Before Reading

Ask the children what they can see on the front cover of the book and lead a discussion about the birds and the colours. Encourage the children to say the names of the colours as you point to them. Explain that the birds are called curlews and read the title of the book.

During Reading

On the first page the curlews find some paint. Ask the children what they think the birds might do with the paint. As you continue to read the story ask the children what colours they can see. Point to the colours and name them, and encourage the children to say the color names with you. Also, point to the characters in the book and say their name – the children may not know what a bowerbird or brolga is so point to each bird as you read its name.

Another talking point is the body parts. The birds paint eyes, beaks and bellies. Ask the children to point to the body parts in the pictures as you encounter them. Then ask the children to point to the same part on their own body. *Where are your eyes? Show me where your belly is etc.*

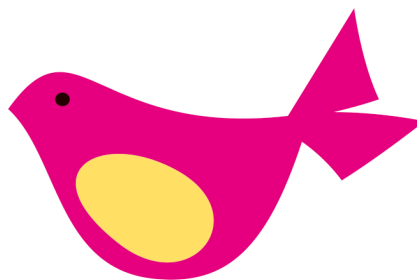
A further feature of the story is the color mixing. You may like to spend a little bit of time talking about this - it will mean even more to a toddler audience later when they are able to experiment with their own colour mixing. You may like to perform a demonstration for them.

After Reading

Song – I Can Fly Like a Bird (Play School)

This song is a nice opportunity for the children to move around after sitting for the story. Listen to the song together then play the song several times and encourage the children to ‘fly’ around the room.

*I can fly like a bird
I can fly through the air
I can flap my two wings
I can fly anywhere
I can fly over trees
I can fly over hills
I can fly
I can fly
I can fly*



Easel Painting: Support the children to experiment with a range of colours to create their own artwork. Use an ice cube tray to represent an artist’s pallet and fill the cavities with different colours. It doesn’t matter if the children end up mixing them all together.

Extension Ideas

Colourful Birds: Photocopy some simple bird outlines and support the children to add colour to the birds using watercolour palette paints. (They may notice some colours mixing!) The children may like to stick feathers onto dry paintings too.

Brown Wombat: Photocopy a simple wombat colouring outline and offer the children a range of brown art materials such as crayons, paint, pencils, chalk, and even mud, to make their wombat turn brown. Alternatively – children could mix a range of paint colours together to create their own brown just like wombat in the story.

Flying Collage Birds: Provide children with a cardboard oval shape and materials to turn the oval into a bird. Support the children to paste or tape collage materials onto the shape. You may like to use: Feathers (for wings), circle stickers (for eyes) and sticks (for legs). The children may like to add additional decoration onto their bird using a range of coloured crayons. Attach a piece of string to the bird so children can hang their bird up to make it ‘fly’.

STEM FOCUS

Children learn about their world, especially STEM concepts, by being directly involved and exploring at their own pace. This helps build their curiosity and their observation skills, so they are more likely to remember and recall their experiences and what they have learned.

Sensory play: Colour Mixing Finger-paint

Squirt shaving cream into a small tub. Drop some paint into the shaving cream and stir with a brush to colour the shaving cream. Make red, yellow and blue using three separate tubs. (You can also use white.) Provide your child with a flat, clean surface such as a tabletop or bench. Offer them the opportunity to select two colours and dollop those colours onto the bench. Ask your child what they might think happen when they mix the paints. Continue the conversation with your child while they experiment with swirling and mixing the paint, gently directing their attention to any colour changes. Help your child to name the colours. Repeat the experiment using another two colours. Your child may wish to just have fun enjoying the feel of the shaving cream and creating patterns; that's okay too!

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Don't Let a Spoonbill in the Kitchen** by Narelle Oliver
- **Hop Up, Wriggle Over** by Elizabeth Honey
- **Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see?** by Bill Martin Jr & Eric Carle

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush) or your preferred choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action) Say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye

To all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!