

LEARNING TIME

The Great Big Egg Hunt

by Ekaterina Trukhan

A wonderful book for talking. Hands on board book format, with many things to name and describe – building language in a fun, engaging story.

Themes: Animals, Easter, Interactive

Language: Animal names such as cat, chick, rabbit, sheep, duck.

Language concept: open, shut, close, inside.



Key Message for Parents | Children's learn through being engaged and doing.

Children learn best when they have exposure to rich language, hands on experiences and the chance of repeat activities.

Play is critical to young children's social, emotional, and intellectual development.

Provide opportunities to explore in non-structured ways as often as possible to allow children to lead the play.

Play provides for language rich conversation and diverse problem solving, collaboration and imaginative skills.

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 2: Children are connected with, and contribute to their world

Educators can support children's learning by

- Sharing information about the natural environment utilising library collections whereby children can learn about plant types and how to grow plants
- Providing multi-sensory child led play-based experiences
- Scaffolding concepts by explaining new words
- Provide outdoor experiences to explore their natural environment
- Explain new vocabulary and reinforce learning with hands on experiences

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!



You may like to introduce the book at this stage, or use a song to help prepare your group and introduce the upcoming story and activities.

Song

Bring this song to life with hand actions, making a spider shape by interlocking your thumbs.

Incy Wincey Spider

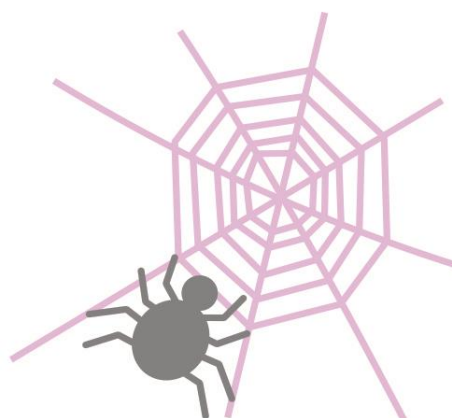
Incy Wincy spider went up the water spout
Down came the rain and washed the spider out
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain

And the Incy Wincy spider went up the spout again

Incy Wincy spider went up the water spout
Down came the rain and washed the spider out
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain

And the Incy Wincy spider went up the spout again

Visit Spotify – Raising Literacy Australia – Featured Stories List.



Before Reading

- Greet families and children warmly, ask them how they are, awaiting their responses and acknowledging them.
- Explain the format of the session, including the book you are reading, songs and activities. You may want to use a visual board to support diverse language and learning needs.
- Ask the children to sit where they can see the pictures, as you will need them to watch closely!
- Be patient with toddlers need to move. Assist them by creating an interactive session to suit their needs.

During Reading

- Introduce the name of the book, author, and illustrator.
- Discuss the cover, ask enquiry questions like 'what do you think this is about?'
- Be intrigued and model engagement with the text, through looking interested in what they discover and check the children are following along. You can observe the new environments on each page together – *"I see the rabbit, can you see it too? I wonder if there are any eggs under this flap, shall we OPEN it and see? Can you tell me if you see any eggs? Ok let's SHUT this one,"*
- This book allows opportunities for the audience participate in guessing, predicting, and responding to questions. A great opportunity for drawing out language. Remember to focus on the key concepts of opening and closing, looking inside, and searching for the eggs.

After Reading

- Reflect on the story.
- Talk about words and concepts, reflecting on ones in their settings eg: have you played peek-a-boo? What about hide and seek? It's fun to play memory games with cards, the card you are searching for is hiding in the game.
- Can the participants remember any animals in the story? You can review the pages and see if they can spot the animals you name. 'Can you find the rabbit?'
- Provide time for children to express their experiences and thoughts. Communication skills include turn taking, eye contact, voice and expression, respectful responses, timing, explaining, and listening. These all need time to be practiced.



"A book is like a garden,
carried in the pocket."

Chinese
Proverb

Extension Ideas

Read

- Libraries – display books on like themes such as Easter, or interactive books.
- Encourage children to borrow books from the library. Many books are also freely available digitally via Library subscriptions such as Libby and StoryBox Library for read aloud – making books accessible from home or when you are out and about – promote this.
- Encourage families to pack a board book in your child’s bag, to make reading a part of everyday, like when you grab a snack or drink.
- Suggest reading books at times other than bedtimes

Sing

- Singing slows down language so enables sounds to be heard more easily. Phonemic Awareness knowledge (sounds) is a foundation to literacy competency.
- Spotify and YouTube have a huge variety of songs. We have a Spotify Playlist ‘Raising Literacy Australia’ – Featured Stories
- Adapt your own from well-known tunes and your own made-up words.
- Learn a song in Kurna or another indigenous language – try this one <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oewPAYbdPY>

Talk

- Talk about when Easter is, you might notice things in the shops that you can point out and start the conversation.
- Discuss the difference between open and shut, or open and closed.
- Talk about things you can do that use those concepts. Like opening your bag, or closing the door.
- Name the colours in the book, try using some different colour descriptions like aqua, mauve or indigo. Point to all the colours as you name them together.

Play

- Play in a game of hide and seek, hide a toy rabbit and ask the children to find it. Give them clues to find it like, ‘look under a chair, or inside a box’.
- A listening game, where the child has to follow your action – Open (open arms), Shut (shut arms) and use similar words to trick them/ test their listening eg: Over and Ship.
- Play a memory game using cards or objects.
- Invite farm animals for a visit, or visit a farmyard, to see the animals in real life.

STEM Focus. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Invisible Ink

What you need:

- Lemon or other acidic fruit
- water
- small plate
- toothpick/ cotton bud or paint brush
- white paper
- lamp or sunlight



What to do:

1. Squeeze the lemon juice into a small plate with a few drops of water
2. Mix.
3. Dip the toothpick into the lemon juice mix
4. Draw on the white sheet of paper.
5. When it dries the writing will be invisible.
6. Heat the paper by holding it over a lamp with the writing side down.
7. The invisible ink writing will slowly turn brown
8. Reveal the hidden drawing!

Science: Mixing and exploring the media, predicting and observing the reaction.

Maths: making shapes.

Language: squeeze, mix, dip, draw, invisible, heat, reveal

Technology: document with photos, create a video.

Photo credit: <https://kidspot.co.nz/activities/magic-ink/>

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

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

- ***Eco Baby: Where are you Koala?*** by DK
- ***Spot's Easter Basket*** by Eric Hill
- ***Where Is The Green Sheep?*** By Mem Fox and Judy Horacek

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. The Activity Time will extend the language found in the book and create hands on learning. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

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 choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (wave) say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye to all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!

Jump and Shout (Little Book Press Title)

Written by Mike Dumbleton and illustrated by Peter Carnavas

