

LEARNING TIME

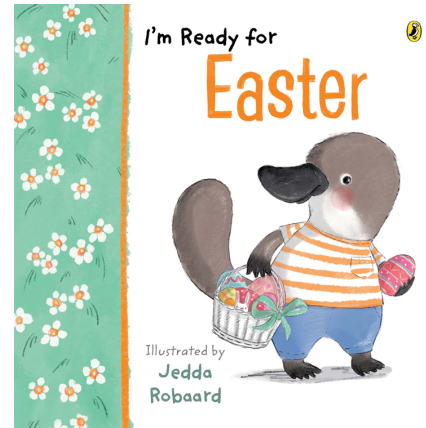
I'm Ready for Easter By Jemma Robaard

A lovely little story about celebrating Easter in Australia with hot cross buns, Easter baskets, Easter bonnets and chocolate egg hunts.

Key Message for Parents | Children Learn Language by Listening to It and Using It

Parents and families are looking for information on ways to support their child's development. You can share information such as:

- Developing language and literacy skills begins at birth
- Early interactions between adults and children in the early years has an amazing impact on the brain
- Meaningful, caring conversations with children promote positive brain development



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

Educators can provide unique experiences and engaging opportunities for children and families, where:

- Children participate in different relationships and communities
- Children broaden their understanding of the world in which they live
- Children explore stories and ideas related to the natural environment

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: Easter Buns in the Baker's Shop

This rhyme can be sung as a finger rhyme or acted out with props.

To sing as a finger rhyme, see below. To sing with props use five objects to represent the buns. Ask someone to be the baker standing with the buns. Each time a bun is 'bought' ask a child to come and take a bun from the baker.

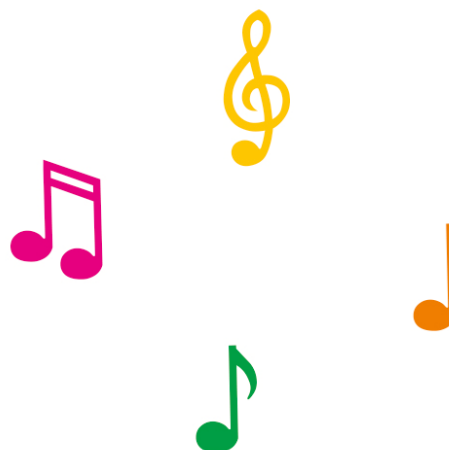
*Five Easter buns in a baker's shop. (Hold up five fingers)
Warm and brown with a cross on the top, (Make a cross in the air or on your chest)
Along came a girl with a dollar one day, (Move arms to symbolize walking along)
Bought an Easter bun and took it away. (Push one finger down so only 4 are remaining)*

*Four Easter buns in a baker's shop.
Warm and brown with a cross on the top,
Along came a boy with a dollar one day,
Bought an Easter bun and took it away.*

*Three Easter buns in a baker's shop.
Warm and brown with a cross on the top,
Along came a girl with a dollar one day,
Bought an Easter bun and took it away.*

*Two Easter buns in a baker's shop.
Warm and brown with a cross on the top,
Along came a boy with a dollar one day,
Bought an Easter bun and took it away.*

*One Easter bun in a baker's shop.
Warm and brown with a cross on the top,
Along came a girl with a dollar one day,
Bought an Easter bun and took it away.*



Before Reading

This book is called 'I'm Ready for Easter'. Read the title of the book and ask the children, *Who can tell me something about Easter?* Following the discussion, direct the children's attention to the book's cover and discuss what they can see. Can they see anything hiding in the basket with the eggs?

During Reading

This book provides opportunities for children to share some ideas about their own experiences. The children may respond with one-word answers or actions and that's fine. It's important to show that you value all efforts to communicate.

After reading each page, invite the children to answer a question. You can encourage children to nod their heads as a way to responding and also allow time for them to explain more if they wish. *Do you like to splash in water? Do you ever eat pancakes? Who likes hot cross buns? Would you like to make an Easter bonnet one day? How could you make an Easter basket? Who is good at finding things?*

After Reading

After sitting and listening to the story it's time to get moving. Let's pretend we are little bunny rabbits and sing a song together!

Song – Hop Little Bunnies (Sleeping Bunnies)

Available on iTunes and Spotify

See the little bunnies sleeping, (children lie down still)

Till it's nearly noon,

Can we, wake them

With a merry tune.

Oh, so still.

Are they ill?

Hop little bunnies...hop, hop, hop (children jump up and hop on the spot) Hop little bunnies...hop, hop, hop

Hop little bunnies...hop, hop, hop

Hop little bunnies, hop and stop!

Mark Making – Provide children with a piece of card cut into an oval shape. Allow children to decorate their 'egg' using makers or paints.

Egg Hunt – Hide some egg shapes objects (such as toy eggs, large river stones or cardboard eggs) around the room and support children to look for them. Celebrate with a high five as the children find eggs. Count the eggs when you have finished.

Craft (Fine Motor) – Make an Easter Basket. Use recycled materials such as a margarine container, ice-cream punnet or the bottom third of a one litre milk carton to make a basket. Fashion a handle from a strip of cardboard (you can cut this from an empty cereal box) and attach with staples or tape. Then support your child to cover the new basket with stickers.

Extension Ideas

Song: Hop Hippy Hop (Justine Clarke)

Watch and bounce along:

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



Nature Walk - The story states, *The days are getting cooler. Coloured leaves are falling from the trees.* Go for a walk outside in the park or a garden and look for coloured leaves. Run and jump on the leaves. Throw some in the air and watch them fall. Collect leaves in a basket. Count the leaves. Talk about the different colours and shapes. What do the leaves feel like when you run your finger over them gently? What do the leaves feel like when you crush them up?

Australian Animals (Platypuses, Wombats and Koalas) – Talk about the animal characters in the story. Discuss their physical features such as colours, number of legs, tails, and facial features. Can you find the same animals in any other books? Create a small world play scene with native animals for children to explore.

Easter Egg Biscuits – Make some coloured icing with your child. Support your child to spread icing onto a milk arrowroot biscuits and then decorate with sprinkles and confectionary. Encourage your child to give away some of the biscuits to people they love.

STEM FOCUS

Make an Easter Bonnet.

Visit a garden and collect a variety of specimens such a flowers, leaves, and feathers. Try to look at the items closely and pose questions, discuss features and make comparisons. Use open ended statements to encourage enquiry, wondering, noticing and investigating. *I wonder where this feather came from? This flower has pink petals and a long stem. Which leaf is bigger? How many petals can we count? This leaf has a line down the middle.*

Support your child to arrange their collection of natural treasures on their own hat. Consider size and space. *I can see some room here. Do you think we could fit another flower in that space? This leaf looks too big too fit. Do you think this is too heavy for your hat? Etc.* Once your child is happy with their design support them to tape the arrangement onto the hat.

Celebrate with an Easter parade or a photo to share with others.

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. Raising Literacy Australia 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:

- **We're Going on an Egg Hunt** By Laine Mitchell Illustrated by Louis Shea
- **Spot's First Easter** by Eric Hill
- **Spot's Easter Surprise** by Eric Hill

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.....)!

