

LEARNING TIME

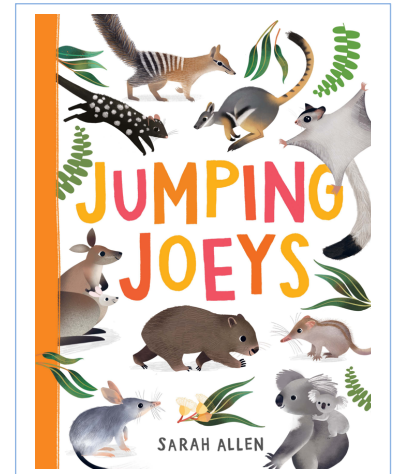
Jumping Joeys By Sarah Allen

Join Australian marsupials in their native habitats. This non-fiction will entice you to discover something new on every page. Gorgeous illustrations and a furry field guide will keep your inquisitive native explorers thinking and talking.

Themes: Australian animals, Rhyming, STEM

Rare and interesting words: Marsupial, scientific names of animals, drey, twilight, dawn, ancient, pouch, burrows, hollows.

Action words(verbs): bounce, appear, leap, bound, creep, glide, snuffle, feast.



Key Message for Parents | Children's learn language by listening to it and using it

- Children learn best when they have exposure to rich language, hands on experiences and the chance of repeat activities.
- The brain is naturally wired to learn language. Don't hesitate to expose children to a wide range of new words.
- Research has shown that children who can rhyme have a head start in both learning to read and spell.

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators; Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts.

Educators can support children's learning by

- Provide children with a range of text to gain meaning and awareness of their world.
- Scaffolding concepts by explaining new words, explaining rhymes, and providing examples.
- Explain new vocabulary and reinforce learning with hands on experiences.
- Sing and provide rhymes for children to enjoy language.

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

Listen to the song, then after the story read the words together and learn the lyrics.

Give Me a Home Among the Gumtrees by Bob Brown co writer/original singer of this famous song

<https://youtu.be/MLWzPQmd5sc>

Finger Rhyme

Create your own rhyme using a traditional rhyme as the base. Try 5 little Joeys instead of monkeys in this classic rhyme.

Five Little Monkeys (substitute Joeys)

Jumping on the bed,

One fell off and bumped his head

Mumma called the doctor and the doctor said

No more monkey's jumping on the bed.

[Count down until there are no more left!]

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!

During Reading

- Introduce the name of the book, author, and illustrator.
- Look at the end papers, discuss the leaves, shapes, colour, flowers, seed pods, leaf veins.
- Be intrigued and model engagement with the text, through looking interested in what they discover and check the children are following along. You can ask leading questions such as ‘*what are they doing? What is this? Have you ever seen one of these animals? What food does it each?*’
- This book allows opportunities for the audience to identify familiar and new animals, allow time to talk and linger where there is interest.
- It is ok if you use this text over several sessions, there is a lot to discover.

After Reading

- Reflect on the book. *Did they discover any new animals, where there any favourite pages?*
- Did they notice the transition from day to night and back to day, discuss these concepts.
- Talk about the rhyming words. For example: glide and hide, can they make another rhyme?
- Talk about how animals need different homes/habitats. Can the children think of any they have seen in their environment? Encourage their contributions, if it is incorrect you can say ‘that’s interesting, or thank you for sharing’, participation and talking is the aim. It doesn’t matter so much what is correct or not. You can model how to respond positively to a child’s ideas saying things like; ‘let’s research that!’ or ‘I am not sure’, ‘let’s find out together’ or ‘what a great idea/questions’.
- 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.



“The love for all living creatures is the
most noble attribute of man.”
- Charles Darwin.

Song

Give Me a Home Amongst the Gum Trees

By B. Brown/W. Johnson

*I've been around the world
A couple of times or maybe more
I've seen the sights, I've had delights
On every foreign shore
But when my mates all ask me
The place that I adore
I tell them right away*

*Give me a home among the gumtrees
With lots of plum trees
A sheep or two, a k-kangaroo
A clothesline out the back
Verandah out the front
And an old rocking chair*

*You can see me in the kitchen
Cooking up a roast
Or Vegemite on toast
Just you and me, a cup of tea
And later on, we'll settle down
Mull upon the porch
And watch the possums play*

*Give me a home among the gumtrees
With lots of plum trees
A sheep or two, a k-kangaroo
A clothesline out the back
Verandah out the front
And an old rocking chair*

For more lyrics visit Source: [LyricFind](https://www.lyricfind.com)

Songwriters: Robert Alexander Brown / Walter Edward Johnson

Home Among the Gum Trees lyrics © O/B/O Apra Amcos



Extension Ideas

Read

- Read the endpapers of this book, there are many words to discover here, look at the plants and describe them to build vocabulary and concepts like spikey, long, flowering, seed pods, leaf veins and patterns (venation).
- Borrow books about nature, animals or plants from the library, use non-fiction books to gather lots of facts. Many books are also freely available via Library subscriptions such as Libby and StoryBox Library for read aloud – making books accessible from home or when you are out and about. Ask your local library.
- Visit a nature park like the Botanic Gardens, conservation reserve or go on a hiking trail. Use online information, maps, information boards or pamphlets on the area to build concepts around those environments.

Sing

- Singing slows down language so enables sounds to be heard more easily. Phonemic Awareness knowledge (sounds) is a foundation to literacy competency.
- Rhyming books lend them self to singing, even if you feel you cannot sing in tune the benefits of singing are worth it!
- Nursery Rhymes. 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.

Talk

- Talk about animals. Ask open ended questions like; '*Can you name some animals?*', '*What animals are native to Australia?*' Discuss the animals they know and ask them to describe them to continue the conversation.
- When you are outside look around at the plant life and encourage the children to observe it. Observations such as how colourful, tall, thick, native or non-native, prickly, flowering, dense, smooth, bark – colour, rough or smooth, straight or branches, boughs, fork (in trees), sprigs or twigs, evergreen or deciduous, seed pods or flowers, leaf sizes and shapes etc.
- Talk about habitats, where animals live and why habitats need to be protected/conserved.

Play

- Be a wildlife rescuer, play pretend tending to injured animals (soft toys) by wrapping them in bandages, tissues, or scarves, make them cosy beds in recycled boxes, use kitchen towels or rags. It is only limited by your imagination!
- Play a game of eye spy in the garden, or park. Look for native animals in your environment.
- Create a habitat for an animal using natural materials.
- Try charades, can you act out the animal and have a partner guess what it is?

Visit

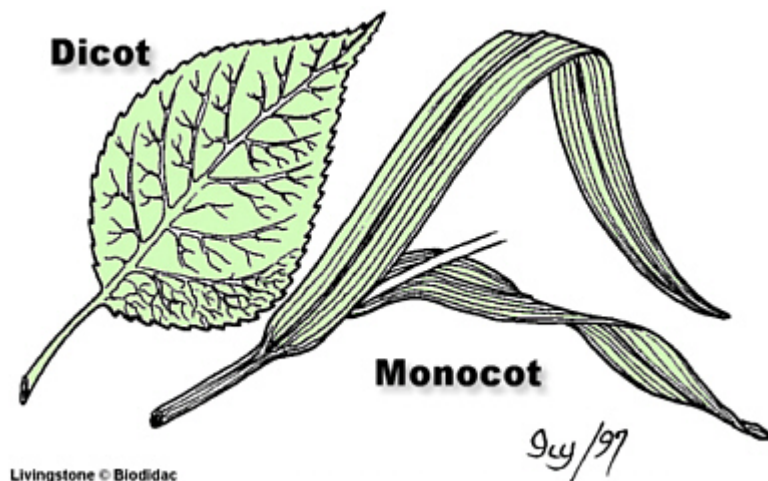
- A local zoo or wildlife sanctuary to discover more.

STEM Focus. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Leaf Venation Study

Within each leaf, the vascular tissue forms veins. The arrangement of veins in a leaf is called the **venation pattern**. These lines are quite clearly visible in many leaves. Have a close look at them and work out the leaf pattern type.

Monocots and Dicots differ in their patterns of venation. Monocots have **parallel venation** in which the veins run in straight lines across the length of the leaf without converging. A dicot may have complicated or uncomplicated leaves. They come up with **net or reticulate** venation and are usually with irregular boundaries, rough or dissected.



1. Gather a collection of leaves, different sizes, types and examine them. If you have a magnifying glass this is a great activity to use it, or use the zoom function on the phone camera.
2. You can talk about parallel lines versus net shaped lines. What other parallel lines are in the garden, in your environment or homes?
3. Try leaf rubbing to see the lines more clearly. Put the leaf on a hard surface, then cover with paper. Using a side of a crayon rub over the leaf and see the pattern revealed.
4. Classify the leaves that you find, what are the other differences you might notice, eg: the plant stem, seeds, flowers, roots.

Vocabulary:

Science: Observe the plant parts, seed, roots, stem, etc. Classify the leaves. Use scientific names.

Maths: observing patterns in nature. Try measure the leaves against each other compare sizes.

Technology: document with photos, create a video, draw what you see, or do leaf rubbing.

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:

- **Busy Beaks** by Sarah Allen
- **Fauna: Australia's most curious creatures** by Tania McCartney
- **ABC of Australian Animals** by Bronwyn Bancroft

An 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.

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.....)!

Busy Little Creatures by Raising Literacy Australia and Fiona Bowden

