

# LEARNING TIME

## Let's count wildflowers

by Tracey Gibbs

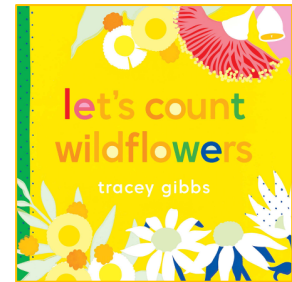
Published by Fremantle Press

Explore Australia's unique flora and count along from dawn to dusk. Bright and contrasting images to capture attention, and board book format perfect for little hands.

**Themes:** Australian, Counting, Nature

**Rare and interesting words/concepts:** Spider orchid, Banksia, Silver princess, Leschenultias, (pronounce *Lescen-ultia*), Kangaroo paws, Sturt desert pea, Mulla Mulla, Donkey Orchid, Wattle, Flannel flower.

Describing words: star bright, sleepy, cobalt, flit-float, sooty, velvety, blaze, brightly, gently, fading, luminous.



### Key Message for Parents | The First Five Years Last a Lifetime

- Learning about language happens through books, songs, conversations that introduce words in meaningful ways.
- Sharing books and stories builds a strong literacy foundation right from the start.
- Holding and handling books develops fine motor skills, concentration, and independent learning.
- The best learning occurs in nurturing, safe, connected experiences with caregivers.

### Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

Educators can support children's learning

- read and share a range of books and other texts with children
- provide a literacy-enriched environment including display print in home languages and standard Australian English
- sing and chant rhymes, finger plays and songs regularly
- demonstrate serve and return interactions, to guide caregivers in picking up on early communication
- sing and say words clearly, repeating and demonstrating to connect concepts to language.

## Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

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.

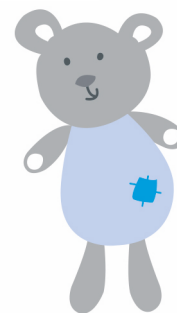
### Good Morning

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

### Rhyme

#### Round the Garden

*Round and round the garden  
Like a teddy bear  
One step, two steps,  
Tickly under there (tickle behind knee)*



## Before Reading

- Greet families and children warmly, ask them how they are, await their responses and acknowledge 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 families to sit where they can see the pictures, as you will need them to watch closely!

## During Reading

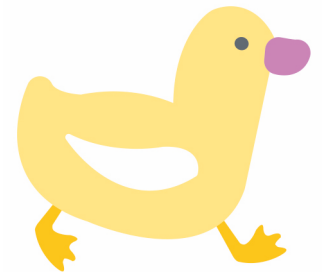
- Introduce the name of the book, author, and illustrator.
- Ask the families to join in as you find things in the book, naming the animals.
- Be intrigued and model engagement with the text, through looking interested in what children discover and checking they are following along.

## After Reading

- Reflect on the story. *Note: there are lots of descriptive words, encourage caregivers to use lots of descriptive words in their day-to-day interactions with baby.*
- All communication from baby is important and should be responded to.

## Three Little Ducks

Three little ducks went out one day  
Over the hill and far away  
Mother Duck said,  
"Quack, Quack, Quack"  
But only two little ducks came back



Two little ducks went out one day  
Over the hill and far away  
Mother Duck said,  
"Quack, Quack, Quack"  
But only one little duck came back

One little duck went out one day  
Over the hill and far away  
Mother Duck said,  
"Quack, Quack, Quack"  
But no little ducks came back



Sad mother duck went out one day  
Over the hill and far away  
Sad Mother Duck said, "Quack, Quack, Quack"  
And all the three little ducks came back





## Read

- Visit the Raising Literacy Australia website and find more book recommendations under Featured Stories. You can search by age – books for babies.
- Borrow board books from other libraries.
- 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.
- Take a book with you everywhere. Books are language tools, like a toy is a tool for play.

## Sing

- Singing slows down language, enabling 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.
- Nursery rhymes are essential pre-literacy tools for building understanding of rhyme, a foundation literacy skill.



## Talk

- Baby brains are wired for oral communication.
- Vocabulary knowledge is the biggest predictor of future literacy success.
- Talk about different things we can see in nature, adding descriptive words.
- Demonstrate the serve and return model of communication, where baby is acknowledged in like, with smiles and sounds to match theirs.

## Play

- Use coloured scarves, tissues, or material to play with, eg for peek-a-boo.
- Have sensory experiences available for touching.
- When we play, we talk and when we talk, we learn words. Describe everything you and baby are doing to build functional language – the words we use every day.

## 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.

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

- **Look Baby** by Janeen Brian and Renee Trembl
- **My First Australian Baby Animals** by Fiona Bowden
- **At the Beach I see** by Kamsani Bin Salleh
- **Maisy's Science** by Lucy Cousins

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 friends.....)!*

