

# LEARNING TIME

## Let's Play By Ali Durham

A rhyming story that celebrates the joy of play time. Board format and perfectly sized for little hands. Modelling real life interactions with family engaging through reading, singing, talking and playing with baby.

'Sing with me, sing with me'.  
Let's make up the words.  
Let's sing to the sky.  
Let's sing to the birds!'

**Language:** *play, blocks, sit, open, turn, hide, still sing, splash, disappear, lie, moon, sleep.*

### Key Message: Children's Wellbeing is Critical to Brain Development and Learning

- Early interactions between adults and babies have a long-lasting impact on brain development.
- Babies learn to talk by listening to people talk, and from people speaking with them.
- Spend quality time connecting, engaged in shared activities.

### Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing.

#### We can help babies become confident learners by:

- Allowing time in your day for play, songs, and stories. Have fun with babies while you read, smile, make eye contact, make silly voices, make animal noises.
- Families are a baby's first teacher. We can be active role models for families by inspiring them and giving them ideas for play activities that they can enjoy at home.
- Providing opportunities for baby to explore, experiment and be hands on with books. Ensure books are accessible for babies to play with, have them on the floor or in easy to access places such as in baskets or on bottom shelves.
- Build strong brain connections by naming and explaining things in their world, not once but many times, and in many ways.



## Welcome

Ask caregivers 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.



## Welcome song - Come Along

*Come along and sing with me, sing with me*

*Come along and sing with me, it's time for story time!*

## Repeat and replace 'sing' with bounce, rock, clap etc.

*Come along and bounce with me, bounce with me, bounce with me*

*Come along and bounce with me, it's time for story time!*

## Warm Up song

### Sing with me

'Sing with me, sing with me'.

Let's make up the words.

Let's sing to the sky.

Let's sing to the birds!

'Sing with me, sing with me'.

Let's make up the words.

Let's sing to the trees,

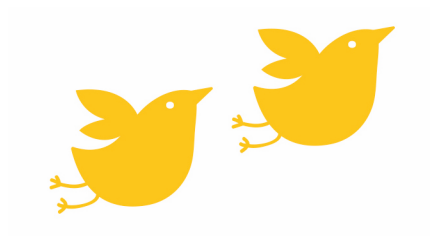
Let's sing to the bees!

'Sing with me, sing with me'.

Let's make up the words.

Let's sing to the sky

Let's sing to the birds!



## Before Reading

You can view the book being sung on our Little Book Press YouTube channel.

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

Encourage the group to sit comfortably in a place where they can see the book. If you have multiple copies of the same book this is a simple way to encourage families to join along with you.

You might like to model how to explore the front cover of a book. Draw attention to the illustrations on the front cover say, "Look at my book, a baby, playing with blocks. Let's read it together". (Point to things as you name them, allowing time for observations and processing).

## During Reading

Point out key words to emphasize like 'blocks, book, tree, bath, moon, bed'.

Make the book engaging, by showing your own interest and enjoyment in reading.

Allow time for concepts to be explored, you might choose to skip some pages if the audience are losing concentration. This is not a book that you need to read all pages consecutively but do read the ending – it brings the book together.

## After Reading

Encourage conversation Have a quiet time together resting and reflecting. Invite the audience to share their favorite books they like to share with their babies.

## Read

- Adults can be encouraged to borrow books to read in full to their child at home. Explain to caregivers that children are often able to concentrate for longer periods in a comfortable one on one situation. The adult reader is also to go at a pace that suits the child and gently redirect their attention.
- Books do not have to be read in one sitting. It might be that you read a few pages together and come back to it later. Let parents know that books can 'grow with the child'. Re-read the same books to the children as they grow older. As they grow toddlers and preschoolers will also enjoy and notice additional details.

## Talk

- Spend time together reflecting on the things you observed and enjoyed in the book.

## Play

- Bring out some blocks to play together.

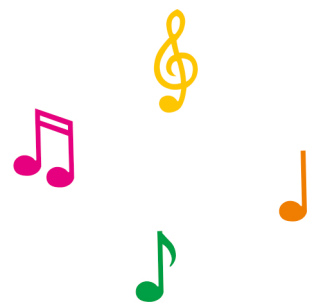
## Sing

- Use the song lyrics on the following page to print out and give to families or enlarge and make a poster they can all see and follow along with.

# Jack in the box

Act out the song with a toy in the box, older babies can do as a peek-a-boo with hands or scarf in front of the face (\*\*do not cover a baby's face)

Jack in the box  
Sits so still.  
Won't you come out?  
Yes, I will!  
Pop!



Jack in the box  
Sits so still.  
Won't you come out?  
Yes, I will!  
Pop!



Jack in the box  
Sits so still.  
Won't you come out?  
Yes, I will!  
Pop!

## Extension Activity

### Try our resources to extend your babies' vocabulary

Nursery Rhymes for Everyday with CD – includes a QR code to obtain songs on any device.  
<https://littlebookpress.com.au/collections/books-for-babies/products/nursery-rhymes-for-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 Treml (Little Book Press)
- **Once Upon my legs** by Mike Dumbleton and Sarah Boese (Little Book Press)
- **All of Us – a book about family** by Alice Melvin (Tate)

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 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.....)!*



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