

LEARNING TIME

This is Me By Sally Morgan

This simple, elegant book about unconditional love is the perfect way to reinforce to all children that they are unique, important, and special just the way they are.



A joyful read aloud that will last as baby grows into themselves.

Theme: Identity, Belonging, Aboriginal

Unique language concepts: fish swim in a shining river, a tree's branch stretching out, shimmering rays of the sunshine, a magical moon.

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 animals 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.

Encourage parents to sing facing their baby so that baby can watch their mouth move as they sing and talk – this helps babies learn to speak themselves.

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

Niina Marni Welcome

Niina Marni Welcome, Welcome, Welcome

Niina Marni Welcome, here today.

We are here on Kurna land, Kurna land, Kurna land,

Welcome here today.

Explore songs on Spotify or YouTube under our Featured Stories Playlist of by theme.

Before Reading

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.

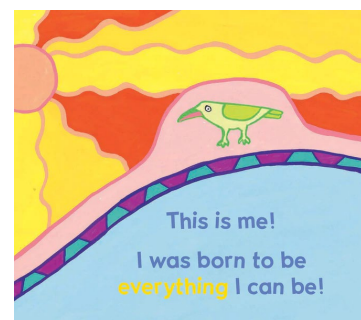
You might like to model how to explore the front cover of a book. Draw attention to the illustrations on the front cover say, "Look at my book, I can see a little girl, she looks happy, Let's read it together". (Point to things as you name them, allowing time for observations and processing).

During Reading

Point out key words to emphasize like *bird, sun, river, moon*.

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

Extension

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 colored scarfs to enjoy together. Sensory experiences are often enjoyable for babies, but watch carefully and stop if baby looks uncomfortable.

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.

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:

- **Warna-Manda Baby – Earth Walk** by *Susan Betts and Mandy Foot* (Little Book Press)
- **Look Baby!** by *Janeen Brian and Renee Trembl* (Little Book Press)
- **Once Upon my legs** by *Mike Dumbleton and Sarah Boese* (Little Book Press)

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.

<https://raisingliteracy.org.au/books-activities/resources/>

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.....)!



Visit our website for more great book recommendations and ideas on how to use them.
www.raisingliteracy.org.au

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