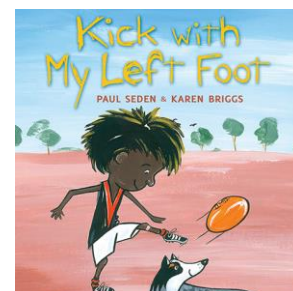


## Kick with My Left Foot by Paul Seden and Karen Briggs

### Theme: Indigenous Books

### October 2014

This engaging story features a child in an Indigenous community preparing to play footy. By putting his socks on his feet, then his boots, and then playing the game, he learns about left and right. He also learns how to kick a goal!



This book was produced through the Emerging Indigenous Picture Book Mentoring Project, a joint initiative between The Little Big Book Club and Allen & Unwin, assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

#### Key Message for Parents: Children Learn through being Engaged and Doing

We can help children learn in an engaged and active way by:

- Playing and having fun. Children learn and develop many skills through play.
- Having structured and unstructured play experiences on their own and with adults.
- Spending time together. Play is good for parents too!

#### Learning Outcomes: Outcome 2: Children are Connected with and Contribute to their World

We can help children to feel connected to others within their community by:

- Sharing stories that explore different cultures and traditions
- Exploring that idea that families and communities are similar and different
- Participating in activities that are inclusive of cultures within the local community

#### Welcome

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and remind them that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

#### Sing - 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.*

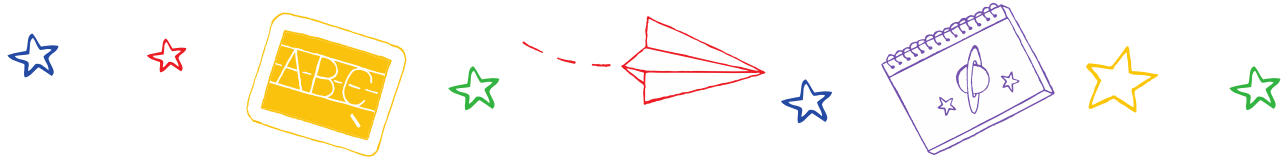
#### Good Morning

*Good morning to you*

*Good morning to you*

*Good morning everybody*

*And welcome to you!*



### Before Reading

If you are able to, it would be good to show a football and ask the children what they already know. They may have had some experience with kicking a football at home, or following a football team. Explain, 'This is a story about a young boy playing football'. Explore the front cover and ask the children what they see.

Talk about the boy and what clothing he is wearing and his boots. You can talk about where he is playing football. This place might look different to where you might play. He is playing in a place where there is dirt, you might play in a place where there is grass. You can say that this story is about an Aboriginal boy living in the country. If you turn over to the end pages you can see the town that he lives in. You can see some animals and some buildings and the oval and a playground. Some children may have lived mostly in the city or the county.

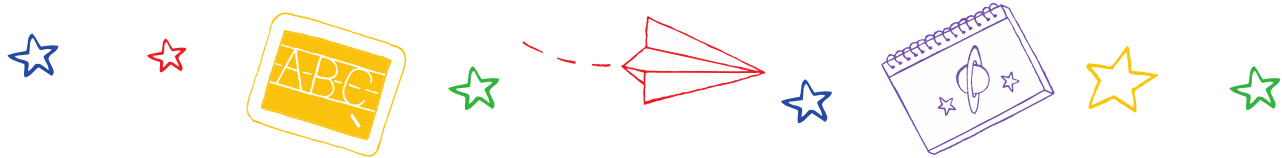
There are children who may know their left and right and others who may not know. If you are facing the children, then your left will look like right to them. So you can stand or sit next to them to show that your left is the same as their left. You can also use a colour for each hand, or write on your hands to show left and right.

### During Reading

The text in this story is very short, and the pictures are very good at demonstrating the actions that the boy is doing. You might like to demonstrate the same actions, or use a puppet or a doll. For example at the beginning of the story the boy puts his socks on his left and right feet, and then his boots on his left and his right feet. Then when he kicks with his right foot, something happens. There are a few images on the page that show that he is having trouble kicking with his right foot. He is feeling very sad about it. Then he tries to kick with his left foot and there are some pages showing images of what happens when he kicks with his left foot. At the end of the story he kicks a goal with his left foot and is very happy. The children may not know that one hand or foot might work better, feel better or feel stronger than the other. In the story it shows that the boy found it hard to kick with his right foot, but with his left foot he was good at kicking and he even scored a goal. You can sit or stand with the children and help them identify their left foot. They can pretend to kick a football with their left foot at the end of the story and get a goal!

### After Reading

If the children can sit in the same direction as you, you can show them their left foot and their right foot, their left hand and their right hand. You can read through some parts of the story together and do the actions together. 'I pull the sock on my left foot. I pull the sock on my right foot'. Then you can try "I lace up the boot on my left foot. I lace up the boot on my right foot." You can talk about which side they feel most comfortable with, some of the children may know which hand they pick up a pencil with, or throw a ball with, or kick a ball well with. They may be able to show you or to name left or right. They might ask for help with this.



There are many footballers and other sportspeople in Australia. They come from different families, different communities, different cultures, and they are men and women. They play for different teams and some of them are stronger with their left hand or foot, or their right hand or foot. They all try to be good at playing their best with their team and to win the game!

### Let's sing: The Hokey Pokey

You put your left hand in, you put your left hand out  
You put your left hand in and you shake it all about  
You do the Hokey Pokey and you turn around  
That's what it's all about  
You put your right hand in, you put your right hand out  
You put your right hand in and you shake it all about  
You do the Hokey Pokey and you turn around  
That's what it's all about  
You put your left foot in, you put your left foot out  
You put your left foot in and you shake it all about  
You do the Hokey Pokey and you turn around  
That's what it's all about  
You put your right foot in, you put your right foot out  
You put your right foot in and you shake it all about  
You do the Hokey Pokey and you turn around  
That's what it's all about

### Activity:

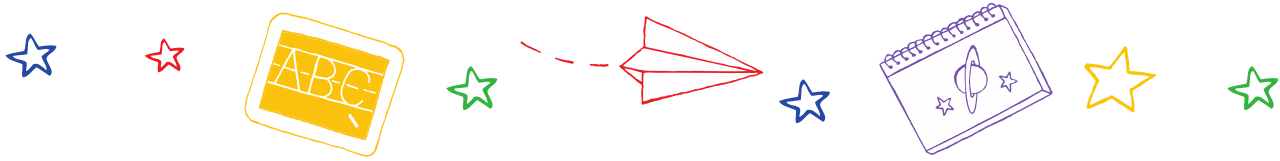
#### Make some left and right patterns with your hands and feet

##### What you need:

- Two colours of paint (eg red and blue)
- Some foam trays or paper plates (sponges also work well)
- Water and soap for cleaning up
- Large pieces of paper and newspaper

##### What to do:

- Take your shoes and socks off
- Place one foot or hand on a sponge with red paint
- Place one foot or hand on a sponge with blue paint
- Now you can make a pattern as you travel along a piece of paper going left, right, left, right



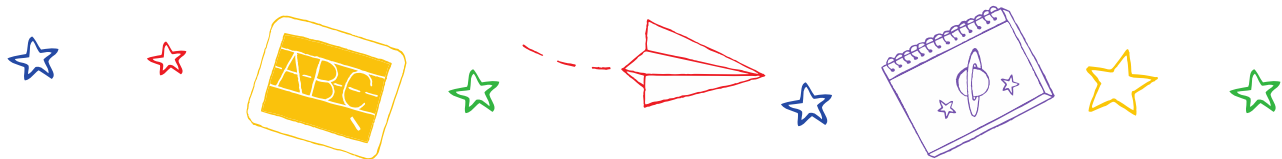
Adults can write 'left' and 'right' on the child's picture to help identify and understand which one is which. Adults might choose to paint the child's hands two different colours rather than the child putting their hands into paint on a plate or sponge.

If paint is not appropriate for your setting, use the templates for left and right feet from the Activity time for this story or trace around some hands and feet in different colours and cut them out and use those to create some pictures.

Even when children, or adults, do not feel immediately comfortable about making a mess with paint, this is an important sensory aspect of learning which will help children gain a greater understanding of their left and their right.

**Always choose different colours for the left and right.**





### Extension activities:

Go for a walk in your community and look at the buildings, shops, animals, the playground, just like in the end pages of this book. See that your community is different and the same to the one in the story.

Learn how to run, bounce, catch and kick with a ball. This is a great game for adults to play with children. You can use soft and hard balls, small and large ones, tactile and smooth ones. If appropriate to your setting you could use bean bags or balloons. Throwing and catching, balancing, running, jumping and stopping are all things that you can have fun doing together outside.

Learn about the game of AFL, share some experiences such as Auskick, look at some pictures of players or watch a clip showing someone kicking a goal. You may even know a footballer or another sports person within the community who can talk to the children and show them some skills.

### Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area.

- *The Bouncing Ball* by Deborah Kelly
- *Same, but Little Bit Different* by Kylie Dunstan
- *One is a Snail, Ten is a Crab* by April Pulley Sayre and Jeff Sayre

### Goodbye Song

*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.....)*

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the last line rather than 'library friends' 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.