Play is the most powerful way babies learn.

Every time you play, sing or read to babies they are learning about language.

By sharing this book and play activities with them they will have the opportunity to:

- Play in an environment that is rich in print and literacy resources.
- Build their vocabulary by hearing language and new words.
- Enjoy reading!

We hope these activities will provide you with a starting point for fun play with babies.

Engaging with Language and Literacy

- Let babies hold their own cloth or board book while you read to them.
- Spend time looking at and chatting about the pictures in the book. This will help develop the babies’ vocabulary as well as show them how conversations work.
- Use a puppet or toy dog to help you tell the story. Let the babies hold it while you tell the story.
- When babies start pointing to the pictures, name the objects that they point to.
- Enjoy books with babies every day!
  - Use an interesting voice to help keep the babies attention.
  - Put the book down if the baby is tired or restless.
  - Babies love books about things that are familiar to them, especially other babies!
  - Give babies the opportunity to hold and play with books.
  - Babies will want to put the books in their mouths so cloth and board books are great for this age.
  - Make reading a fun time! Find a nice, quiet corner, sit comfortably with the baby, let them know that you enjoy reading to them.
Enjoying Imaginative Play

Books are great for encouraging talking, listening, concentration, creativity and imagination.

Include Books In Babies Play

- After reading the story provide some dinosaurs for the babies to play with.
- Display posters and pictures of dinosaurs nearby for the babies to look at.
- Place some simple books that feature dinosaurs with the toys so you and the babies can explore them together.
- When you are talking to the babies, make connections between the toy dinosaurs and the dinosaurs in the books.

Discovering Sensory Play

- Milk Carton Blocks
  Use milk cartons or other recycled boxes to make blocks for the babies to play with.
  Stick pictures or photos of familiar objects on each side of the box.
  You may want to use pictures from a favourite book of the babies.
  Talk to the baby about the pictures as they play with the blocks.

Exploring Our World

- In the story Henry and Beatrice both had backpacks.
  Give the babies a variety of handbags to play with.
  Babies will enjoy filling and emptying their bag with toys.
  Talk to the baby about the toys as they play with them.
Having Fun With Music and Movement

- Hold the babies while you gently stomp like a dinosaur singing the *Dino Stomp* song.
  Make up your own verses, eg,
  Clap dino
  Clap dino
  Clap clap clap
- Play with a puppet or toy dog with the babies.
  Babies will delight in hearing the sounds that dogs make and watching you move like a dog.
- Sing songs and rhymes that mention dogs while you are looking at the pictures in the book, eg,
  *B I N G O*
  *Hey Diddle Diddle*
  *Old Mother Hubbard.*

Other books to try:

*Books about dogs*

*The Spot Books* by Eric Hill
*The Hairy Maclary Books* by Lynley Dodd
*Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell

For more book suggestions, tip sheets, nursery rhymes, songs and fun things to make and do please visit: thelittlebigbookclub.com.au
Songs & Rhymes:

Dino Stomp
Dance dino
Dance dino
Stomp stomp stomp

Dance dino
Dance dino
Stomp stomp stomp

B I N G O
There was a farmer who had a dog
And Bingo was his name–o
B – I – N – G – O
B – I – N – G – O
B – I – N – G – O
And Bingo was his name–o

Hey Diddle Diddle
Hey diddle diddle
The cat and the fiddle
The cow jumped over the moon
The little dog laughed to see such fun
And the dish ran away with the spoon

Old Mother Hubbard
Old Mother Hubbard
Went to the cupboard
To fetch her poor dog a bone
When she got there
The cupboard was bare
And so the poor dog had none

Notes List any other books, rhymes or activities the children have enjoyed.

For more book suggestions, tip sheets, nursery rhymes, songs and fun things to make and do please visit:
thelittlebigbookclub.com.au
Play is the most powerful way toddlers learn.

Every time you play, sing or read to toddlers they are learning about language.

By sharing this book and play activities with them they will have the opportunity to:

- Play in an environment that is rich in print and literacy resources.
- Build their vocabulary by hearing language and new words.
- Enjoy reading!

We hope these activities will provide you with a starting point for fun play with babies.

Engaging with Language and Literacy

- Let the toddlers hold their own cloth or board book while you read to them or let them help to hold the book and turn the pages.
- Spend time looking at and chatting about the pictures in the book. This will help develop the toddlers vocabulary, show them how conversations work and also help their observational skills.
- Use a puppet or toy dog to help you tell the story. Let the toddlers hold it while you tell the story.
- Enjoy books with toddlers every day!
  - Use an interesting voice to help keep their attention.
  - Put the book down if they become tired or restless.
  - Toddlers love books about things that are familiar to them, especially other children!
  - Give them lots of opportunities to experience books.
  - Toddlers are developing their fine motor control. Cloth and board books are great for this age.
  - Make reading a fun time! Find a nice, quiet corner, sit comfortably and let them know that you enjoy reading to them.
  - Toddlers can’t sit still for long amounts of time so edit the story to fit their attention span.

For more book suggestions, tip sheets, nursery rhymes, songs and fun things to make and do please visit: thelittlebigbookclub.com.au
Enjoying Imaginative Play

Include Books In Toddlers Play

- After reading the story provide some dinosaurs for the toddlers to play with.
- Display posters and pictures of dinosaurs nearby for the toddlers to look at.
- Place two or three fiction and non-fiction books about dinosaurs with the toys.
- When you are talking to the children, make connections between the toy dinosaurs and the dinosaurs in the books.
- Make a sign, eg, “Beware of the dinosaurs” and read the sign with the children.

Discovering Sensory Play

- Toddlers love touching things; it is how they explore new sights, sounds and textures.
Take the toddlers outside for a sensory walk.
Spend time discovering nature through their senses; listen to the leaves crackling under their feet and the birds chirping in the trees, smell the flowers and feel the texture of the rough bark and the soft grass.
Talk to the children about their experiences so they can learn the names of new things.
Collect things off the ground or take photos so you can revisit the experience.
Take toy dinosaurs outside so the children can play with them in a natural environment, using leaves, bark and twigs etc as props in their play.

Exploring Our World

- Talk about pets with the toddlers. Do any of the children have pet dogs?
- Collect some toy dogs, cats etc… for the children to have as pretend pets.
- Make baskets for them to sleep in and show the toddlers how to pat them gently.
- Use a ribbon or piece of wool for a lead and let the toddlers take their dogs for a walk.

For more book suggestions, tip sheets, nursery rhymes, songs and fun things to make and do please visit: thelittlebigbookclub.com.au
Having Fun With Music and Movement

- Act out musical stories with the children

You could try:
- Three Little Monkeys
- Five Currant Buns
- Five In The Bed

Other books to try:

Books about dogs
The Spot Books by Eric Hill
The Hairy Maclary Books by Lynley Dodd
Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell

Songs & Rhymes:

Three Little Monkeys
Three little monkeys
Jumping on the bed
One fell off and bumped his head
Daddy phoned the doctor
The doctor said
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"

Two little monkeys
Etc

Five In The Bed
There were five in the bed
And the little one said
“Roll over, roll over.”
So they all rolled over
And one fell out…

There were four in the bed
Etc…

There was one in the bed
And that one said
“Good night”.

Five Currant Buns
Five currant buns in a baker’s shop
Round and fat with a cherry on the top
Along came (child’s name)
With a penny one day
He/she bought a currant bun
And took it away

Four currant buns, etc…

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