

Play is the most powerful way young children learn.

- Every time you play, sing or read with young children they are learning about language.
- The following activities have been designed for early childhood professionals to use as a starting point for developing children's early literacy skills through play.
- Please feel free to adapt them for the home and with children of different ages.
- Don't forget to record your own ideas, activities that worked really well, relevant songs and rhymes in the Notes section opposite.
- Visit our website www.thelittlebigbookclub.com for more fun printable activities based on this book.

Engaging with Language and Literacy

Start by looking at the cover of the book and discuss with the children:

- The meaning of the word fearless.
- The contrast between the title and the image of the hiding dog and the expression on his face.

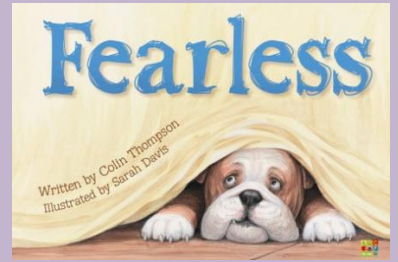
After reading the book you may want to discuss with the children the things that the family is afraid of. Are they real or imaginary?

Name the Dog:

- Photocopy and enlarge the page showing the dogs in the shop window, and ask the children to come up with their own names for the dogs.
- Or cut out the dogs and names and have the children match the names to the dogs.
- Look at the picture of the puppy on the same page and ask the children if he were your dog, what would you call him? Why?

Feelings Book:

- Make a feelings book.
- The children can either draw pictures or you could use a digital camera to record the different facial expression of the children.
- Label each photo with the appropriate feeling, eg, happy, sad, scared, excited.



Fearless
Colin Thompson and
Sarah Davis

Notes

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Being Creative Through Play

Perfect Pets:

- The children can design and create a pet home for Fearless using boxes and collage materials.
- Have a pretend pet parade.
The children can bring in their favourite pet toy and parade around with their “pets”.

Make dog masks or paper bag dog puppets with the children. There are instructions for both activities at:

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/dog/>

Exploring Our World

- Go for a walk around the streets and record how many different types of dogs they can find. What do the children think the dog’s names could be?
- Ask the children to bring in photos of their dogs or other pets. Ask the other children to guess the dogs names.
- Organise an excursion to an animal shelter or alternatively ask a representative from Animal Welfare League or RSPCA to come and speak to the children about responsible pet ownership. Vets also have a great range of pamphlets on puppy/dog ownership.
- If the children have a pet at your home, they could give it some extra care, such as making sure its bed is clean, and dry, or changing the water, or giving it a brush or making a small pet toy.

Enjoying Dramatic and Musical Play

Sing songs that feature dogs:

- *How Much Is That Doggy In The Window,*
- *Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone*
- *Bingo*

Sing About Feelings:

- Sing *If You’re Happy And You Know It.*
- Include other emotions such as *if you’re sad and you know it have a cry.*

More Books About Dogs:

Wanted: The Perfect Pet
by Fiona Robertson

Harry The Dirty Dog by
Gene Zion

Spot (Series) by Eric Hill

Hairy Maclary (series) by
Lynley Dodd

Pocket Dogs by Stephen
Michael King

Visit

<http://www.colinthompson.com/page2.htm> for a full list of books by Colin Thompson

Useful Websites and Links:

For Printable Activities:

www.thelittlebigbookclub.com

How Much Is That Doggie In The Window?

How much is that doggie in the window? (arf! arf!)
 The one with the waggley tail
 How much is that doggie in the window? (arf! arf!)
 I do hope that doggie's for sale

Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone

Oh where, oh where has my little dog gone
 Oh where, oh where can he be
 With his ears cut short and his tail cut long
 Oh where, oh where can he be?

Bingo

There was a farmer had a dog
 And Bingo was his name
 B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O,
 And Bingo was his name
 Repeat Chorus (clap letter 'B')
 Repeat Chorus (clap letters 'B' and 'I')
 Repeat Chorus (clap letters 'B, I' and 'N')
 Repeat Chorus (clap letters 'B, I, N, and 'G')
 Repeat Chorus (clap all letters)

If You're Happy And You Know It, Clap Your Hands

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands
 If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands
 If you're happy and you know it, then you really ought to show
 it
 If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands

If you're cross and you know it, stamp your feet
 If you're cross and you know it, stamp your feet
 If you're cross and you know it, then you really ought to show it
 If you're cross and you know it, stamp your feet

If you're sad and you know it, say "Boo hoo!"
 If you're sad and you know it, say "Boo hoo!"
 If you're sad and you know it, then you really ought to show it
 If you're sad and you know it, say "Boo hoo!"

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