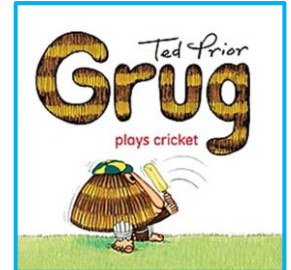


Learning Time – session plans



Grug Plays Cricket By Ted Prior

This summer, Grug is playing cricket! This classic Aussie hero is back from the bush to enchant a new generation of youngsters. Ted Prior is an Australian children's author, best known for his works on the children's series of Grug books which are now more than 30 years old.



Key Message for Parents | Children's Wellbeing is Critical to Brain Development and Learning

Neuroscience defines the following as being indicators for wellbeing: Good physical health, feelings of happiness, contentment and successful social functioning. Social and emotional development is equally as important as intellectual development. Encouraging positive self-esteem in young children is a great way of developing their emotional wellbeing.

Some ideas to share with parents are:

- Spending quality time with a caring adult is wonderful for children's self-esteem
- When a parent or carer spends one on one time with a child it tells them they are special
- Some tips for positive self-esteem include: Giving children time to have a go at new things, giving them just enough help so that they are confident to try again, having realistic expectations and rewarding their efforts not just the end result. (Praise should describe what they have been doing, not just how clever or good they are)

Learning Outcomes | Outcome 3: Children Have a Strong Sense of Wellbeing

Educators can help young children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing by:

- Showing genuine affection, understanding and respect for all children
- Allowing time for talking, playing, singing and reading stories in each Story Time session
- Giving praise and recognizing all achievements, big and small
- Interacting and engaging positively with all participants
- Encouraging children to make choices, accept challenges, take considered risks, manage change and cope with frustrations and the unexpected

We can also help children develop responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing by

- Providing time for energetic and physical play
- Ensuring a range of materials is available to support both fine and gross motor skill development
- Actively supporting children to learn hygiene practices and become independent

Find booklists, tip sheets, nursery rhymes and activity and learning time sheets @

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au     



Themes within this story

- Cricket
- Australiana
- Sport

Welcome

Ask carers 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.

Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

and welcome to you!



Song

What is Hiding in My Box?

Have a mystery box containing different types of balls, e.g. ping pong, tennis, cricket balls, sitting in your lap as you start to chant (choose your own tune).

What is hiding in my box?

What is hiding in my box?

What could it be? What could it be?

What is hiding in my box?

The children can make guesses and / or tell you about the balls as you bring them out one at a time, leaving the cricket ball to the end.



Before Reading

Our story today is about playing cricket. Have you ever seen cricket or played it at home?

Our book today is about someone you might already know. Hold up the book and show cover, reading title and author.

Allow time for discussion if children have seen other Grug books.

During Reading

Turn to the first page and ask children what they can see. (You may even be able to source a cricket knee pad to pass around the group.) Read each page leaving plenty of time for exploring the pictures and discussing what might be happening.

To highlight emotions, a discussion about feelings could be introduced. When the ball hits Grug on the nose, and when Cara swallows the cricket ball, ask:

- 'How do you think he / she are feeling?'
- 'Look at Cara's face when she swallows the ball. Is she OK? What would you do?'
- 'What do you think of Grug's solution to get the ball back?'

Stop at the page showing the ball being 'hit high into the air'. Ask the group what they think is going to happen next.

After Reading

Read the book a second time more fluently without as much discussion (if possible).

Activity Time

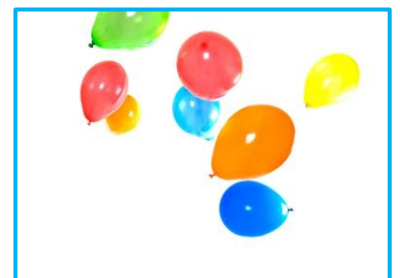
Balloon Fun

What you need

- Balloons
- Plastic bats or cardboard rolls

Have some balloons ready to blow up or already blown up for the children to throw in the air.

Adults could use the bats to try to catch the balloons thrown by the children. Change over so that children also get to use the bats.



After playing this for as long as the interest is there, bring everyone down to sit again while you show them Cara the Whirly Curly Snake.



Cara the snake

Ssssnakessss like Cara are sssslithery creatures.

They have flicking tongues and beautifully patterned backs.

We can create our own sssslithering ssssnake like Cara with ssscissorsss.

What you need

- Coloured pencils
- Scissors
- Paper plate
- Paper or strong card
- Hole punch
- String or yarn



What to do

Are you ready to make your own Whirly Curly Cara Snake? With a paper plate, trace a circle on paper using coloured pencils.

1. Draw a snake's head at the centre of the circle. From the head, draw a continuous line, going farther and farther to the outside, until you reach the edge of your circle. Draw eyes on the snake's head.
2. Colour its body a solid shade.
3. Use your imagination to draw shapes on the snake's back. You could make diamonds, circles, or other patterns. Create zig-zag lines or even stripes. Outline the designs so they stand out even more!
4. Cut out the snake carefully with scissors. Follow the circular line from tail to head.
5. Use the hole punch to make a hole in your snake's head. Run string through the hole to hang up your snake. Watch your Whirly Curly Snake twist and spin when you blow on it!

Share with parents / carers about the benefits of developing gross and fine motor skills

- Fine motor skills require using the small muscles in the fingers, hands and forearms. Cutting with scissors isn't an easy skill to learn and takes patience on both the part of the child and adult, and lots of practice by the child. Let your child cut old pieces of paper where you can hold the paper while they try to cut anywhere.
- Using masking tape requires fine motor skills and hand eye coordination and the strength in little fingers to break off or cut pieces to use.
- Outdoor and indoor physical play develops gross motor skills. Running, jumping and throwing all require using large muscles. Children can have lots of fun developing these skills if carers build in opportunities for
 - Running
 - Jumping
 - Hopping
 - Throwing and catching
 - Climbing up, down, over, under and through things



Extension Ideas

You could use old magazines or newspaper to make a cricket bat, folding over or rolling up and using masking or sticky tape. An old cardboard roll could alternatively be used for the handle. Blow up a balloon, throw it in the air and try to hit it with the bat.

STEM Focus

Young children are natural scientists that learn best through play. They are curious about everything in their world and want to explore around them constantly. When given time to investigate and to talk through what they are learning they can begin to make sense of their world and their place in it. This will include predicting and guessing, which are scientific skills. So spend time discussing with your child what might happen (eg, if blowing a balloon up too far, if cutting through the lines on the paper, if hitting a ball with a bat, etc) and then experiment to see what does happen.

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. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

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.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Any of the Grug books** by Ted Prior
- **Lucy Goosey** by Margaret Wild and Ann James
- **See Me Move** by Sascha Hutchinson and Heidi Linehan

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.....)!

