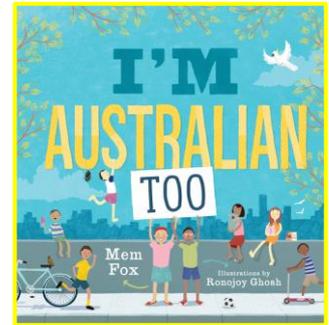


## I'm Australian Too by Mem Fox and Ronojoy Ghosh

*I'm Australian Too* celebrates the amazing cultural diversity of our country. Each verse introduces a different family, describing their ancestral journey and what makes them uniquely Australian. Ronojosh Ghosh's vivid illustrations depict each family while also capturing scenes from the Australian landscape. Elder Park's rotunda appears in silhouette against a stunning starry sky, and a Melbourne tram whizzes down a city street.



There is a small but poignant reference to refugees and children in detention: a young girl is depicted behind a grey wall, holding a birdcage, while a symbolic white dove flies over the wall to freedom. *I'm Australian Too* speaks of cultural understanding, kindness and love and is a testament to our vibrant, multicultural nation.

### Key Message for Parents: The Best Learning Happens In Nurturing Relationships

- Children have better outcomes when they feel loved, secure and supported. Nurturing is vital to a child's emotional, social and physical development
- Make time in your day to sing and play together
- *I'm Australian Too* is about cultural identity and diversity. Keep a look out in local newspapers for cultural fetes or fairs, visit the museum, or go to the local market to shop.

### Learning Outcomes: Outcome 5: Children Have A Strong Sense Of Identity

As educators it is important to provide a learning environment where children feel safe and supported. We can help develop positive self-identities in children by listening to their ideas, encouraging them to share stories and by being a good role model as teachers, parents and caregivers

- Encouraging children to interact and play together respectfully, through games and activities, which encourage sharing and working together
- Develop warm relationships with families through friendly and positive interactions
- Be sensitive to the needs of children whose first language is not English. Get to know some simple phrases in their mother tongue, to build a connection and make them feel welcome

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

[thelittlebigbookclub.com.au](http://thelittlebigbookclub.com.au)     



## Themes within this story

- Diversity
- Australia
- Rhyming Stories

## 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!*



### Props for this Learning Time include:

- A globe of the world
- Scarves for dancing
- A map of Australia
- Toy airplane, boat or car

## Song

### It's A Small World After All

Use the scarves, or flags if you have them. Have children stand in a circle for the verse then walk into the middle and back for the chorus

*It's a world of laughter, a world of tears.*

*It's a world of hope and a world of fears.*

*There's so much that we share, that it's time we're aware - It's a small world after all!*

*(chorus)*

*It's a small world after all, it's a small world after all,*

*it's a small world after all it's a small, small, small, world*

*There is just one moon and one golden sun and a smile means friendship to everyone - Though the mountains be high and the oceans are wide - It's a small world after all!*

*(repeat chorus)*



### Before Reading

Today's story is called *I'm Australian Too*. It's written by Mem Fox and illustrated by Ronojoy Ghosh. What can we see on the front cover? Lots of children of different nationalities!

Using a globe or map, can we find Australia? Talk about how Australia is an island and that you need a boat or plane to get here. Australians come from many different places but we all live here together on this island! Use the props to discuss and demonstrate how people from all over the world come to Australia to live. Perhaps some of your grandparents came from other countries too! Share any relevant stories.

Who in your group can speak another language? Try saying "hello" in the languages of your group.

### During Reading

Written in true Mem Fox rhyme *I'm Australian Too*, introduces a different family at each verse. She has cleverly added a "How about you?" after each verse. This simple question brings in the reader or listener to the story, inviting them to reflect and share on personal experiences too.

The stunning illustrations by Ronojoy Ghosh, cleverly represents families doing very Australian things like swimming, walking and watching fireworks. Enjoy the vivid colours and look for the details, which describe each scene. Ask your listeners to comment on where they think each family live and what they are doing.

### After Reading

The story finishes with "Together we live in peace, beneath the Southern Star" Use the globe to locate Australia again. Discuss where Australia is positioned and we how see special stars at night.

Who can remember where some of the families came from? Let's try to find them on the globe. How do you think they got to Australia?

Ask the children what activities they enjoy with their families. Are there any special celebrations at this present time?

### Activity Time

#### Make A Family Flag

A flag can signify a place, culture or family. Encourage children and parents to work together to create a flag that best represents them!

#### What you need

- Pieces of dowel or skewers with pointy end cut off
- Paper cut into basic shapes, ie triangles, squares, rectangles
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Textas , crayons for drawing
- Flag Template





### What to do

Talk with the children about what makes their family special. How many people in your family? Give the children a blank piece of paper and ask them to draw a picture of their family. Then cut it out and glue onto the flag. Add different colours, shapes and pictures to create a unique family flag! Attach to a piece of dowel or large straw with masking or sticky tape.

If there is time sing **It's a Small World After All** with the flags!

### Extension / Other Activities:

- Get children to print their hands onto an outline of Australia
- Decorate flags to display in the library or centre
- Make a Southern Night Sky using white paint and cotton tips

### 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.

- ***To Get To Me*** by Eleanor Kerr and Judith Rossell
- ***Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns*** by Hene Khan and Mehrdokht Amini
- ***Same But Little Bit Diff'rent*** by Kylie Dunstan

### 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.....)!*

