

### 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](http://www.thelittlebigbookclub.com) for more fun printable activities based on this book.

### Engaging with Language and Literacy

Before reading the story:

- Talk about the cover of the book.  
What do the children think the story will about?
- Do they know what sound a rooster makes?
- Talk with the children about the different sounds that animals make. A great way to introduce this to children is by singing *Old McDonald Had A Farm*.

This is a great story for encouraging children to make predictions.

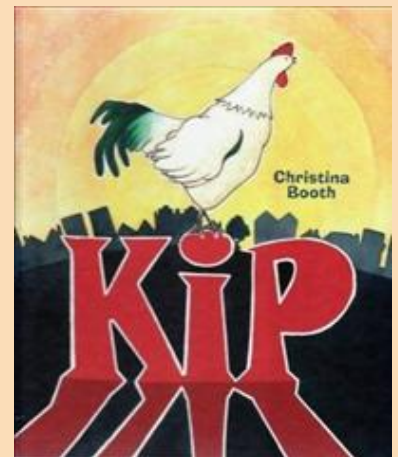
- Stop reading at appropriate points in the story and let the children guess what might happen next?
- Will Kip be allowed to crow again?
- After reading the story talk to the children about why everyone from the street visited Kip at the farm?

Organise a display of books about chickens and farms for the children to read.

Talk to the children about who animals lay eggs, e.g. chickens, ducks, geese, crocodiles, platypus, snakes, dinosaurs, turtles, emus, cassowaries. Display pictures and books of egg laying creatures.

Visit [www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au](http://www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au) for a free printable activity that looks at the lifecycle of a chicken.

Photocopy an outline of a rooster for the children. Let them decorate the rooster with feathers or crepe paper. Cut out



### Kip

Christina Booth

#### Notes

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spirals shapes with children so they can decorate them just like the Cock-a-doodle-doo sound in Kip. The children might like to try and write some of the letters.

### Being Creative Through Play

Create Cute Chicks:

- Add feathers and match sticks to yellow play dough or clay for the children to make their own chicks.
- Make thumbprint chickens. Have the children dip their thumbs into yellow paint and print them onto paper. When your thumbprints are dry, add details with a black and orange pen (or cut snips of orange paper or felt for the beaks).

Fun On The Farm:

- Include plastic farm animals in the sand tray and block corner for the children to play farms. The children can make their own fences and homes for the farm animals.
- Let the children make their own farm scene with grass, and some water in a bowl for a pond. Then make some nests for different creatures that hatch out of eggs e.g. ducks, chickens, and a bird. Use your imagination when making the creatures e.g. leaves, corks, and feathers.

### Exploring Our World

Visits and Visitors:

- Is there a farm close by that you could visit?  
In Adelaide, the Hahndorf Farm Barn is a unique blend of a children's farmyard and Wildlife Park.  
<http://www.farmbarn.com.au/>
- If one of the children has chickens at home you could visit their home. Look at where the chickens live, what do they eat?
- *Living Eggs* provides fun and easy do-it-yourself programs that enable children to see chicks actually hatching from their eggs.  
<http://livingeggs.com.au/>

### More Books About Chickens:

*Shutting the Chooks In* by Libby Gleeson & Ann James

*Max's Chocolate Chicken & Max Counts His Chickens* by rosemary Wells

*Bear and Chook by the Sea* by Lisa Shanahan & Emma Quay

### Useful websites and links:

For printable activities:

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

- Alternatively you can hire an incubator and eggs or an educational eggs kit from your local Nature Education Centre.

In South Australia try <http://www.nature.sa.edu.au/>

- Encourage birds to visit you by helping the children make nests with natural materials found in the yard. I wonder if any birds will use the nests to lay eggs?
- Other themes from the book you could explore include:
  - Time: dawn, morning, lunch, afternoon etc...
  - Growth: How the children have grown from babies to toddlers, growing seeds and plants

**Enjoying Dramatic and Musical Play**

- Act out *I'm a little chick* by curling up in ball and using your hands to make a pecking motion.
- Sing songs about chickens, roosters or farms.
- Change the words from *Five Little Ducks Went Out One Day* to *Five Little Chicks Went Out One Day*.

I Had a Little Rooster

I had a rooster and my rooster pleased me,  
I fed my rooster from the green berry tree,  
And my little rooster went "Cock-a-doodle-doo-dee-doodle-dee-doodle-dee-doodle-dee-doo!"

I had a hen and my hen pleased me,  
I fed my hen from the green berry tree  
And my little hen went, "Cluck, cluck, cluck!"  
And my little rooster went "Cock-a-doodle-doo-dee-doodle-dee-doodle-dee-doodle-dee-doo!"

I had a cat and my cat pleased me,  
I fed my cat from the green berry tree,  
And my little cat went, "Meow, meow, meow!"  
And my little hen went, "Cluck, cluck, cluck!"  
And my little rooster went "Cock-a-doodle-doo-dee-doodle-dee-doodle-dee-doodle-dee-doo!"

I had a pig and my pig pleased me,  
I fed my pig from the green berry tree,  
And my little pig went, "Oink, oink, oink!"

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And my little cat went, "Meow, meow, meow!"  
And my little hen went, "Cluck, cluck, cluck!"  
And my little rooster went "Cock-a-doodle-doo-  
dee-doodle-dee-doodle-dee-doodle-dee-doo!"

I had a duck and my duck pleased me,  
I fed my duck from the green berry tree,  
And my little duck went, "Quack, quack, quack!"  
And my little pig went, "Oink, oink, oink!"  
And my little cat went, "Meow, meow, meow!"  
And my little hen went, "Cluck, cluck, cluck!"  
And my little rooster went "Cock-a-doodle-doo-  
dee-doodle-dee-doodle-dee-doodle-dee-doo!"

I had a cow and my cow pleased me,  
I fed my cow from the green berry tree,  
And my little cow went, "Moo, moo, moo!"  
And my little duck went, "Quack, quack, quack!"  
And my little pig went, "Oink, oink, oink!"  
And my little cat went, "Meow, meow, meow!"  
And my little hen went, "Cluck, cluck, cluck!"  
And my little rooster went "Cock-a-doodle-doo-  
dee-doodle-dee-doodle-dee-doodle-dee-doo!"

Five Brown Eggs  
(Author Unknown)

Five brown eggs in a nest of hay,  
One yellow chick popped out to play.  
Four brown eggs in a nest of hay,  
Another yellow chick cheep-cheeped Good day.  
Three brown eggs in a nest of hay,  
Crack went another one, Hip hooray.  
Two brown eggs in a nest of hay,  
One more chick pecked his shell away.  
One brown egg in a nest of hay,  
The last yellow chick popped out to say,  
Cockle doodle doo!

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