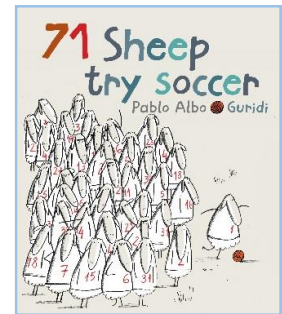




71 Sheep try soccer by Pablo Albo and Guridi

71 Sheep try Soccer is a funny and playful book about a large team of sheep attempting to play a game of soccer. They keep coming up against challenges, but this doesn't stop them from persisting with continuing the game. The book is rich in numeracy concepts (number, sorting, pattern, measurement, length, time, and distance) and focuses on themes of problem solving and team work to overcome the challenges that may face us.



Key Message for Parents:

Children are born Ready to use and learn mathematics

Children have a sense of number and are able to interpret the world numerically. During a child's early years playful experiences can support their growing understanding of mathematics and numeracy. Parents and carers can support their child by understanding that:

- Young children learn and understand mathematical concepts more effectively through trying things and finding out things themselves, this is why exploring through play is so important
- Children's fingers have an important role in their mathematical development, using fingers is a strong predictor of mathematical ability
- Children benefit from many and varied experiences that provide opportunities for them to experiment and use mathematical concepts in the context of play and relationships, such as counting, sorting, matching and playing (navigating space).

Learning Outcomes

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

During *Story Time* children are supported to develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating. Activity Time can provide a wide range of experiences for children.

We may see evidence of confident and involved learners when children:

Apply a wide variety of thinking strategies to engage with situations and solve problems.

Create and use representation to organise, record and communicate mathematical ideas and concepts.

Manipulate objects and experiment with cause and effect, trial and error, and motion.

This learning is promoted by providing experiences that encourage children to investigate and solve problems.

Recognising mathematical understanding that children bring to learning and build on these in ways that are relevant to each child.

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

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au     



Themes within this story

- Sport
- Counting
- Sheep

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. If you would like to see how to sign this song visit YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKCGF2hvg3I>

Hello Friends

Hello Friends

Hello Friends

It's time to say hello

(This can be repeated if you like)



Song

Baa Baa Black Sheep

Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any wool?

Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full!

One for the master,

One for the dame,

And one for the little boy

Who lives down the lane

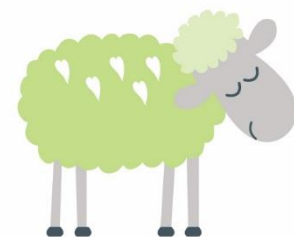
(Repeat song – if you like, change the colour)

Baa, baa, rainbow sheep,

Have you any wool?

Yes sir, yes sir,

Three bags full etc.





Before Reading

Introduce the book by showing the children the front cover. Read the title and name the author.

Ask: "Who do you think the story will be about? What animals can you see on the front cover? How many sheep do you think there are?" Continue "What else do you notice? (Numbers) Yes, there's lots of different numerals on the front cover. Which ones can you recognise? (Point them out as children share their observations).

Explain "This story is about 71 funny sheep who really want to play a game of soccer. But they keep having lots of problems that stop the game. Should we start reading to find out what happens?"

During Reading

Look at the first page together and ask "What can you see?" And "What do you think is going to happen?"

After you've read the second page mention "The sheep are already having problems, the ball is stuck in the tree. How do you think they can get it down?"

There are many opportunities to talk about mathematical concepts in the book and you could point examples of these out in the illustrations whilst reading. They include number (amount of sheep), sorting (into even teams), measurement, distance, direction and length (when trying to get the ball out of the tree) and time (day and night as lighting of illustrations change).

With each new strategy the sheep try to get the ball out of the tree, ask the children "Do you think it will work? Why/ why not?" This discussion helps to expand the mathematical language children know, understand and can use to describe what is happening in the story.

After Reading

For children to become readers and love books, they need to understand what is being read to them. Ask them "what can you recall from the story and what went wrong in the story?" Continue "what happened at the end of the story?"

To reflect on some of the mathematical concepts, ask the children "How did they get the ball out of the tree?" and "What strategies did they try to get the ball out of the tree?" (You can then talk about what they did that didn't work and why e.g. They couldn't throw the rocks high enough.

Ask the children "What is team work? When did the sheep have to work together? When have you had to work with someone to solve a problem?"

Activity Time

How would you get the ball out of the tree?

Extension: making our own soccer balls

What you will need

- A4 blank paper
- A few pictures of the ball in the tree for the children to refer back to (you could photocopy one of the pages)
- A variety of coloured pencils/textas
- Wool/twine/string of varying colours
- Scissors





What to do

1. Provide each child with a sheet of paper and pencils/textas of their choice.
2. Have a few pictures of the ball in the tree displayed to help children develop some ideas and spark their memory.
3. With the support of their parent/carer ask them "how would you get the ball down from the tree?" Ask them to represent their ideas on the paper. Scribe their words on the page too (make sure you ask the artist if it is ok to write on their drawing first).
4. For children who finish quickly, you can provide them with a piece of wool/twine/string and ask them to have a try at rolling the string into their own soccer ball (this is great for fine motor development and is a tactile, calming experience).
5. Regroup together and share a few examples of the children's ideas.

Share with Parents about the benefits of talking about new concepts

- Meaningful stories combined with thoughtful interactions are the best way to help children understand new concepts. Reading a book will help, but when it is matched with careful conversation the learning become richer.
- In this activity time children are provided with the opportunity to not only apply a wide variety of thinking strategies to solve problems but also create and use representation to organise, record and communicate mathematical ideas and concepts.

Extension ideas:

Why not have your own game of soccer? Or encourage children to think of their own game using a ball, where they are responsible for coming up with the rules of the game.

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:

- ***One is a Snail, 10 is a Crab*** by April Pulley Sayre and Jeff Sayre Illustrated by Randy Cecil
- ***How Big Is Too Small?*** by Jane Godwin and Andrew Joyner
- ***Waiting for Hugo*** by Amanda Niland and Claire Richards

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.

Goodbye Friends

Goodbye Friends

Goodbye Friends

It's time to say Goodbye

(This can be repeated if you like)

