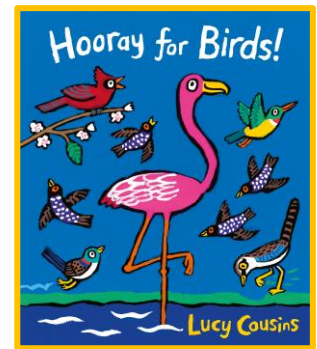




Hooray for Birds!

by Lucy Cousins

Hooray for Birds is a celebration of all kinds of birds. Imagine flying or waddling or pecking like a bird. With so many birds to imitate children will be endlessly entertained. With bright colours in true Lucy Cousins' style, this book is engaging and will excite the minds of even the youngest bird lover.



Key Message for Parents

Children learn from watching and copying

Children begin to imitate from birth. So much learning happens for children through watching and copying the actions, sounds and behaviours of other people and animals.

Share with parents and carers how Story Time sessions are a great opportunity for children to observe and watch other children and adults interact. As each child copies one another they are practicing and extending on prior knowledge. By watching adult's model appropriate behaviours, words or an action, children are learning about the world. By watching and copying in safe and nurturing environments children will be confident to try new things.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

Children will learn to engage with people when they are confident in their knowledge and understanding. By giving children many opportunities to be involved and try new things, they can confidently transfer and adapt what they have learnt from one situation to the next.

By providing children with connections and continuity between learning experiences they are able to develop an understanding of themselves and their world.

Using Story Time as an opportunity to engage children in a fun and playful manner allows them to truly learn about concepts new to them. Support children to try new things and to be involved in their own learning by choosing age appropriate books and activities and by letting children challenge themselves.

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

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au     



Themes within this story

- Birds
- Movement
- Exploring

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

Six Little Ducks

*Six little ducks that I once knew,
big ones, little ones, fair ones too,
but the one little duck,
with a feather on his back,
he led the others,
with a quack, quack, quack,
quack, quack, quack,
quack, quack, quack,
he led the others,
with a quack, quack, quack.*

*Down to the river,
they would go,
wibble wobble, wibble wobble,
to and fro,
but the one little duck,
with a feather on his back,
he led the others,
with a quack, quack, quack
quack, quack, quack,
quack, quack, quack,
he led the others,
with a quack, quack, quack.*

TIP: Encourage toddlers and parents to move about like birds to go with the fun words in this song.





Before Reading

Ask the children what kinds of birds they have seen before? Do they know what identifies something as a bird? Suggest parts of birds that children may have heard about if they don't mention them e.g. beak or feathers. Ask the children to keep an eye out for any birds they can remember the names of throughout the book.

As this book encourages children {and adults if they are comfortable to} to pretend they are a bird, allow enough room for everyone to move around and flap their wings.

During Reading

On the first page everyone is encouraged to imagine that they are a bird. Allow each child enough time to decide whether they will be a bird and what kind. Encourage them to find a space in the room where they feel comfortable. As each new bird is shown a new action, sound or skill is portrayed. Ask parents to help their child with the changes and talk about what is different about each bird. Allow children enough time to practice each movement before turning to the next page. Point out the different kinds of birds and ask "who knows what type of bird this is?"

After Reading

Ask children if they remember any of the names of the birds they saw? Practice with them again the actions of the birds they can remember. If they can't recall any themselves ask parents to remind them. Talk about the differences and similarities of the birds. They are all birds but they look so different. Reminding children about differences is also encouraging acceptance of others and valuing what other people can offer the world. We are all unique and special.

Activity Time

Paper Plate Birds

Make your own birds made from paper plates.

Materials needed:

- paper plates
- scissors
- water based paints
- paint brushes/fingers and smocks (or advise parents to bring one)
- coloured ribbons or string (optional: feathers, crepe paper, cellophane)
- glue or sticky tape
- googly eyes (optional – you can print eyes or use coloured stickers as alternatives)

What to do:

1. Cut the paper plates in half
2. Secure plates together to make a bird shape (see image) use glue, staples or sticky tape.
3. Paint the top side of one half to create the head – half beak yellow/orange and half any colour!
4. Paint the bottom side of the other half to create the body/wing
5. Add eyes and decorate with craft materials to create feathery birds!



Once dry you can hang these birds in the garden or bring in an old branch and stick the bird to it for an inside decoration. Using paper plates, you can make many types of birds by adding beaks, cutting out wings. Use your imagination and create your own type of bird.



Extension Ideas

- Bird watching at the local park or Botanic Gardens, take binoculars if you have some
- Set up a bird bath or bird feeder in your back yard
- Play games like follow the leader or Simon Says and practice copying actions/behaviours

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:

- **Bea** by Christine Sharpe
- **Duckies Ducklings** by Frances Barry
- **Hooray for Fish** by Lucy Cousins
- **A Bit Lost** by Chris Haughton

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.....)!

