



## There's an Owl in my Towel by Julia Donaldson and Rebecca Cobb



A fun and engaging lift the flap book that young listeners will love.

*There's an Owl in my Towel* is written by Julia Donaldson, author of *The Gruffalo*. The text is rhyming, repetitive and full of action! Each situation that is described has a 'problem' that is quickly and simply resolved. How can you have a bath when there is an owl in your towel? How can you have breakfast when there is a mole in your bowl? The simple answer is revealed under each flap, which are easy for small hands to manipulate. The illustrations by Rebecca Cobb are delicate and delightful, with just enough detail for this age group. There is a catchy song to enjoy as well. (words on page 3)

### Key Message for Parents

#### Children learn language by listening to it and using it

A baby watches and listens to everything we do, tuning into the sounds and words he or she hears. Even though they do not use words yet they communicate using sounds and eye contact.

*There's an Owl in my Towel* features words with sounds that rhyme: Owl/Towel, Mole/Bowl etc. Let the playfulness of this text inspire some fun together!

Some tips to support babies learn language are:

- Babies will learn words more when they are paired with movement. When bathing baby and she splashes, say "splash, splash, splash!" Use simple words and actions.
- Reinforce these connections by singing as well. Music is another effective way the brain acquires language. Sing Nursery rhymes that use simple tunes and gestures like Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star and of course the **There's an Owl in my Towel** Song! (find words at the end of the story)
- Remember, communication is a two way street. Babies love to be listened to as well. Look into their eyes, smile and hold their attention. This tells them that you value what they are saying and enjoying their attempts to communicate.

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

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



### Learning Outcomes - Outcome 5: Children Are Effective Communicators

Babies learn to talk by listening and looking, beginning with making sounds or “babbling” and progressing to forming simple words like “Da Da” between six to nine months. As language develops so does comprehension and baby will begin to use gestures and replacement words for objects like “Bot Bot” for bottle etc.

*There’s an Owl in my Towel* is ideal for encouraging babies to listen and mimic sounds. While making time in the day for stories, songs and play, it is also important to allow time for baby to rest and relax, to avoid “over stimulation”. Watch for signs of tiredness such as pulling at ears, jerky movements, crying and of course yawning

### Themes within this story

- Rhyming Stories
- Babies
- Play

### Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their babies. 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!*



### Welcome Song (to the tune of Mary Had A Little Lamb)

*Come along and sing with me, sing with me, sing with me*

*Come along and sing with me, it’s time for story time!*

*(come along and clap with me, bounce with me)*

Encourage parents to sing facing their baby so that baby can watch their mouth move as they sing and talk – this helps babies learn to speak themselves.



### Before Reading

Make sure babies and parents are seated comfortably- you might like to sing a “getting ready to listen” song. This one is sung to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star! Alternatively a bell or triangle could signal story time and to gain baby’s attention.

“Let’s get ready, it’s time to look, (clap hands together)  
Settle down and read a book!”

### During Reading

If possible, have multiple copies available for parents to share with their child as this book is interactive and the illustrations would be better appreciated close up.

Try to animate the text with lots of expression when reading. Try pausing on the word “but!” to build interest. The rhyming words ie hare /chair, lamb/pram, owl/towel can be accentuated by changing the volume and tone of your voice.

“Hop Away Hare, back to your burrow!”- Add sounds and gestures to reinforce this action...HOP, HOP, HOP! Encourage parents to hop, hop, and hop along their baby’s leg or arm. This can be repeated as the lamb skips off, the owl fly’s off and finish with a big hug at the end.

### After Reading

Get parents to stand up holding their babies. Together sing ***There’s an Owl in my Towel*** and invite parents to move or gently dance in time to the music. Encourage parents or carers to sing along- babies will love the gentle movement and hearing parent’s voices singing.



Listen to ***There’s an Owl in my Towel*** here:

<https://www.panmacmillan.com/there-s-an-owl-in-my-towel>

*There’s a hare on my chair  
There’s a hare on my chair  
Hop away, hop away, hop away, hare.*

*There’s an owl in my towel  
There’s an owl in my towel  
Fly away, fly away, fly away, owl.*

*There’s a mole in my bowl,  
There’s a mole in my bowl,  
Run away, run away, run away mole.*

*There’s a ted in my bed,  
There’s a ted in my bed,  
Stay with me, stay with me, cuddle me ted.*

*There’s a lamb in my pram,  
There’s a lamb in my pram,  
Skip away, skip away, skip away, lamb.*



### Activity Time

#### Playing with towels

Have a collection of towels, of different colours and sizes. Use these towels to play and explore in the following ways! Have the list written somewhere and encourage parents to try each activity.



### Towel Activity Ideas:

- Play peek a boo, hiding behind the towel
- Sit or lie baby on towel, sing a nursery rhyme
- Drape the towel over objects to create a tent
- Hide toys under the towel and find them
- Roll a ball in a towel for baby to watch
- With large towels, two parents can hold and flutter the towel above babies. Sing songs while playing with your 'towel parachute'
- Encourage baby to hold an end of the towel and have a gentle "Tug of War"

### Craft Idea- A Pup in a Cup!

Using a paper cup, a craft stick and the puppy template, create a simple pop up toy which will delight and surprise baby.

#### What you need:

- paper cup
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Craft stick
- Template of puppy

#### What to do:

1. Cut out puppy and glue onto craft stick. Poke a hole in the bottom of the cup and thread stick through, so that the puppy sits inside the cup
2. Use your Pup in a cup to play 'where is it?' games with baby. Have fun saying "Where is it? "And "Here it is!" There is bound to be lots of giggles and smiles!



### 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.

- ***We're Going on a Bear Hunt*** by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury
- ***Run Like a Rabbit*** by Alison Lester
- ***Brown Bear, Brown Bear what do you see?*** By Bill Martin Jr and Eric Hill

### 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.....)!*





### Template: Pup in a Cup

- Cut around puppy
- Secure to a pop/craft stick
- Insert into paper cup

