Play is the most powerful way young children learn.

Everytime you play, sing or read with children they are learning about language.

By sharing this book and play experiences with children they will have the opportunity to:

- Relate stories to familiar experiences.
- Retell stories in their own words and develop their vocabulary.
- Use their imagination and enjoy role play.

We hope these activities will provide you with a starting point for fun and purposeful play with children.

Engaging With Language and Literacy

Inspiring a love of books in children is one of the best gifts you can give them.

- Introduce the story to the children. If possible have a basket of pears with you. Discuss with the children different ways of cooking pears. How do they think the cow on the cover is feeling? Why?
- After reading the story let the children talk about their favourite fruits.
- Make a book with the children of 'Our Favourite Fruit'.
- Create an 'interest table' with the children. Display a variety of fresh and packaged fruits as well as fiction and non-fiction books about fruit. Encourage the children to bring in things from home to add to the table.
Enjoying Dramatic Play

• Setup a fruit shop with the children. Your shop could have a cash register, pretend money, scales, a phone and pen and paper for writing things down, shopping baskets, handbags and other dress-ups.
• Children can take turns to be the customers and the shopkeeper.
• Help children write or draw shopping lists. Make lots of labels for the shop including price tags and an open and closed sign for the shop. Use the children's illustrations on the labels.

Discovering Sensory Play

• Photocopy an outline of a cow for the children. Let them print the cow with half a pear dipped in black paint. Display the cows with different quotes from the story, e.g., 'Pamela liked pears on picnics.' When you have finished displaying the cows, staple them together to make a book.
• Make fruit salad together. Take photos of the children making and eating the fruit salad and use them to make a simple book about the experience.

Exploring Our World

• Make a large pear tree with the children. You could use paint, collage or box construction. Put the tree in the block corner and add farm animals for the children to play with.
• Invite the children to play 'Too Many Pears' with you in this area. Take photos of the children playing. Display the photos with text from the book or using the children's own words.
• Display real fruit for children to observe. Provide a variety of materials for the children to use. Present the fruit. You could use paint, oil pastels or fine black textas. Display the children's drawings.
• Turn the home corner into a picnic area. Spread a blanket out on the floor with a tea set and a picnic basket. Don't forget lots of pears. A toy cow would encourage children to retell the story during their play.
Other books to try:

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
Eat Your Dinner! by Virginia Miller
The Potato People by Pamela Allen
Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet & Allan Ahlberg
Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert
Bear Goes Shopping: A guessing-game story by Harriet Ziefert
Green Eggs & Ham by Dr Seuss

Rhymes and Songs:

Pat a cake
Pat a cake, Pat a cake
Baker’s man
Bake me a cake
As fast as you can
Pat it and prick it
And mark it with ‘B’
And put it in the oven
For Baby and me.

This Little Pig Went to Market
This little pig went to market.
This little pig stayed home.
This little pig had roast beef.
This little pig had none.
And this little pig cried, Wee-wee-wee
All the way home.

Little Miss Muffet
Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet,
Eating some curds and whey.
Along came a spider,
And sat down beside her,
And frightened Miss Muffet away.

Mashed Potato by The Wiggles

For more book suggestions, tip sheets, nursery rhymes, songs and fun things to make and do please visit:
thelittlebigbookclub.com.au