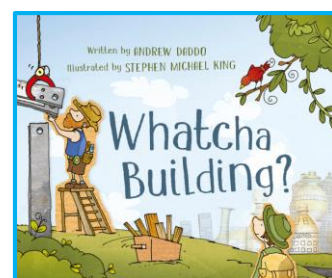




Whatcha Building ?

by Andrew Daddo and Stephen Michael King

Little Davey Durak is building something, something special and something very important. On his way home from school, he passes Bruce the builder who is demolishing an old milk bar. Every day, as he passes the building site, Davey asks Bruce for pieces of timber. Bruce wonders what a little boy could possibly want with all that timber!



*Stephen Michael King's illustrations are unique and fitting. This book is a visual masterpiece from cover to cover. Children will love to spend time looking at the collaged images and found objects that are cleverly incorporated into each spread – there is so much in the details. Andrew Daddo's characters speak with authenticity, feeling and just a hint of nostalgia. **Whatcha Building** is poignant comment on the shape and function of our cities. It is also a perfect picture book for sharing with this age group!*

Key Message for Parents | Children Learn From Watching and Copying

As children are learning through their observations of us, it is important to be mindful of how we behave, talk and act in their presence. By being a positive role model for children there are learning positive behaviours, which will shape the way they interact with others in the future. This month's story has a powerful environmental message and reminds us of how and what we can do to help our environment. By modelling good practices such as recycling we are teaching our children how to care for our environment.

Learning Outcomes | Outcome 3: Children Have A Strong Sense Of Well Being

As educators we can support wellbeing in the following ways:

- By providing activities like action songs which require movement, co-ordination and spatial awareness.
- By providing opportunities for group learning and discovery which builds connectedness and trust
- By acknowledging children's contributions at discussion time through positive feedback, smiles and eye contact
- By establishing a set of reasonable rules for story time and supporting children in adhering to them through role modelling and positive reinforcement.

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

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au     



Themes within this story

- Construction
- Problem Solving
- Environment

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

Build It Up

Get children to make two fists. Demonstrate placing one fist on top of the other and continue swapping as you sing the song, raising your arms as you sing. A good coordination activity!

Build it up

Build it up, build it high

Build it up, up, up into the sky

Build it up, build it up, build it higher

Build it up, up, up, up into the sky!

Repeat again and this time get the children to crouch down low and slowly rise up, stretching their bodies until they are on their "tippy toes"



Before Reading

Today's story is called *Whatcha Building?* Who do you think might be asking that question? Let's look at the cover.

Who has seen a building site before? What sort of machines would you find? What other sorts of things might you find? Who would you find at a building site? In today's story we meet a builder called Bruce and a little boy called Davey.

As you open the book the cover pages are filled with builders' tools. See how many you can identify together. Next we find an extra title page with a crane picking up a building. What is the building made out of? A bottle!

You may want to introduce and explain the term 'milk bar' before you begin the story. This will help keep the story flowing while you are reading. Ask the children "What is a milk bar?" Many children may not know what a 'milk bar' is. Explain that this story includes a building called a milk-bar which is like a corner store or deli.

During Reading

On the first double spread, a city is depicted and on its outskirts, an old dilapidated milk bar or shop. There is so much to ponder over in this first spread. What has the illustrator used to create the city? What items can the children recognize?

Davey appears in the foreground looking across to the milk bar. What is happening to the milk bar...and who might that person be at the truck?

Andrew Daddo has captured Bruce the builder's character through his colloquial dialogue. He uses words like '*fella*' and '*seriously*' and '*matey*'. Emphasize these words as you read as they give life to Bruce's character.

After Reading

What did Davey make with Bruce's old wood? An amazing chicken coop! Who has chickens at home? Did you know 'coop' is the name for the building that chickens live in? What do they eat? Having chickens as pets also helps us dispose of our food scraps.

Explore the concept of recycling! Look at the recycling logo.

Have a few items like plastic bottles, milk cartons, yogurt containers and small cardboard boxes. Pass them around the circle. Who can find the RECYCLE symbol? Can you think of any other uses for these items? Who has recycling bins at home? And who knows how to use them?!



Activity Time

Build a recycled city

This is a super fun group activity using found objects, like bottles and boxes. Each child makes a building that will form part of a city

What you need

- Small boxes
- Sticky tape
- Paper, cut into small squares for the windows
- Glue sticks (to stick windows onto the buildings)
- Plastic bottles, milk cartons
- Sticky dots, labels, bottle tops



What to do:

1. Let each child choose a bottle or a box. Have small containers or 'windows' pre-cut and ready in bowls. Get the children to stick windows on top their boxes with glue sticks.
2. Have a large tarp or mat set up on the floor with a roadway either drawn on or made from cardboard. When children complete a building, let them decide where to put their building. What kind of building is it? Maybe a shop, house, kindergarten or library. As each building is added, the city or town will begin to grow. Have cars and figurines available and let the children play and enjoy the city they have created.

Extension Activities:

- Take a trip to the dump or waste station to see recycling in action (idea for parents – contact Local Council for details)
- Find out about keeping chickens. Collect your food scraps for a neighbor with chickens
- There is also this link for more ideas
<http://www.harpercollins.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Whatcha-Building-Teachers-Notes.pdf>

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:

- Uno's Garden by Graeme Base
- Louise Builds a Boat by Louise Pfanner
- Journey by Aaron Becker
- Rattletrap Car by Phyllis Root and Jill Barton

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 choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (wave) say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye to all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!

