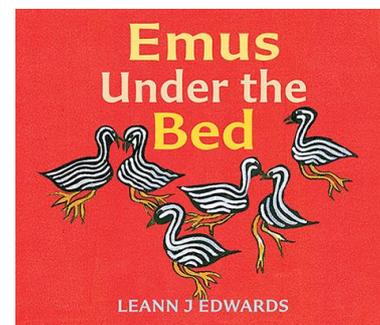


Emus Under the Bed By Leann J Edwards

Theme: Indigenous books

October 2014

This unique story is about a little girl and the fun she has at her Auntie Dollo's house. It features an indigenous Australian family and is a story to treasure about the connection between culture and family.



This book was produced through the Emerging Indigenous Picture Book Mentoring Project, a joint initiative between The Little Big Book Club and Allen & Unwin, assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

Key Message for Parents: Children learn through being engaged and doing

We can help children learn in an engaged and active way by:

- Playing together, some play can be adult led and some can be child led
- Having a collection of simple everyday play materials suitable for the child's age to explore
- Spending time together: singing, talking, reading, walking, shopping and involving the child in your everyday tasks are all ways that they will learn new skills

Learning Outcomes: Outcome 2: Children are Connected with and Contribute to their World

We can help children to feel connected to others within their community by:

- Sharing stories that explore different cultures and traditions
- Exploring that idea that families are similar and different
- Participating in activities that are inclusive of cultures within the local community

Welcome

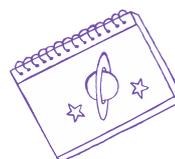
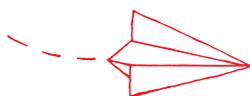
Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and remind them that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Sing

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.

You might like to clap a simple beat as you sing this song and encourage everyone to clap along



Good Morning/Afternoon

Good morning to you
Good morning to you
Good morning everybody
And welcome to you!

Song

Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree

Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree
Merry, merry king of the bush is he
Laugh Kookaburra, laugh Kookaburra
Gay your life must be

Before Reading

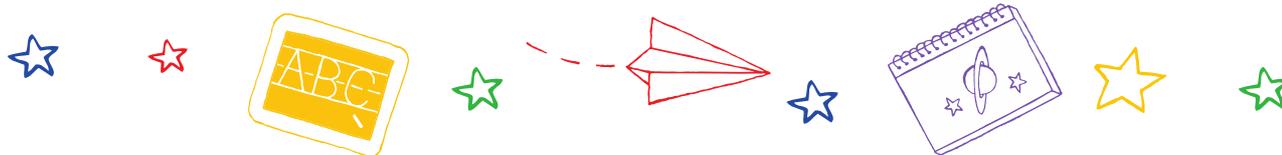
This is a story about an Indigenous Australian family. They really love birds and collecting feathers. If you are able to have some materials to discuss and to feel, it would be good to have some feathers, some bird puppets and some pictures of different local native birds. You can talk about the noises birds make and what the children know about birds. Birds referred to in the story include magpies, galahs, cockatoos, guinea fowl and tawny frogmouth. Children may be unfamiliar with these birds and so it is useful for them to be able to see some pictures before you start. On the cover of the book are some birds called Emus. The picture shows some emu chicks. The title of the story is 'Emus Under the Bed'. The children may want to see a picture of an emu or be able to talk about them, or share experiences about an emu.

Let's remember the 5 L's of listening when we read a story:

Look, Listen, Lips closed, Hands in our Laps, Legs are still!

During Reading

There are many things to look at on each page as you read. The text is short, however on each page there is a large illustration and also some small images of birds and other creatures. Take your time on each page pointing out what you can see. Spend some time on the page that features all of the birds. You can point to them and the children might be able to help you name and describe them. On the page that describes damper for lunch, you could talk about this. Damper is made by combining flour and water into a ball and cooking it in the coals of a fire. It is a simple form of bread that is made in the bush.



After Reading

The child in the story had a lot of fun at her Aunty's house. Ask the children to recall some of the things they did together. The children might also like to share times they spend with their extended family or friends and the things they like to do with their Aunty, Uncle, Cousin, Grandparent or friend.

Sung to: "Oh, My Darling Clementine"

Found a feather, found a feather, found a feather on the ground.

Oh, I am so very lucky a feather to have found.

Picked it up, picked it up, picked it up just like that,

Picked up that pretty feather then I put it in my hat.

Found a feather, found a feather, found a feather on the ground.

Oh, I am so very lucky a feather to have found.

Activity Time

Make a feather headdress

What you need:

- Coloured paper /or use feathers and leaves from nature
- Scissors
- Sticky tape

What to do:

- Collect some feathers and leaves outside
- Or colour in and cut out some feather shapes
- Fold your shapes in half
- Do little cuts in the feathers (Children will need support from adults)
- Make a strip of thick card to go around your head
- Attach the feathers

Now you have a feather headdress

Go on a nature scavenger hunt

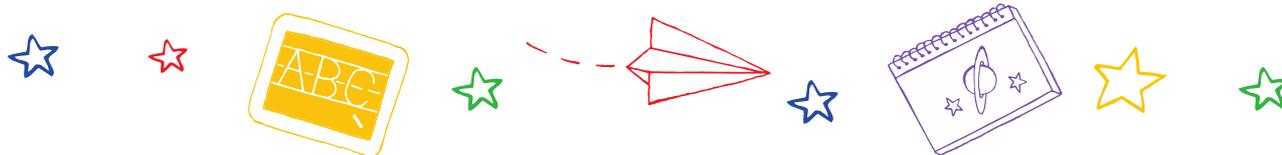
Go for a walk outside and explore. See if you can find:

A bird, Stones, Sticks, Leaves, Feathers, Bark and anything else in your natural environment

You can make a display with what you find, have some free play with them or make something with them. Some of the exploring and creating can be adult led play, and some can be child directed.

You can also use the Activity Time sheet for this book and go bird watching!





Extension Activities:

Songs to share about emus and other birds:

The Wiggles, "Move like an emu" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xaj_rV20Md4

Make some damper: <http://www.taste.com.au/recipes/12308/damper>

Ingredients

450g (3 cups) self-raising flour

Pinch of salt

80g butter, chilled, cubed

185ml (3/4 cup) water

Method

Preheat oven to 200°C. Line a baking tray with non-stick baking paper. Combine the flour and salt in a large bowl. Use your fingertips to rub the butter into the flour until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.

Add the water to the flour mixture and use a round-bladed knife in a cutting motion to mix until the mixture just comes together, adding 1-2 tablespoons extra water if the mixture is a little dry. Use your hands to bring the mixture together.

Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead gently for 1-2 minutes or until smooth. Shape dough and place on tray. Dust with a little extra flour and bake in oven for 30 minutes or until the damper is cooked through and sounds hollow when tapped on the base. Allow time to cool and serve warm.

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 further explore this theme:

- *Ten blue wrens and what a lot of wattle* by Elizabeth Honey
- *Look See, look at me* by Leonie Norrington and Dee Huxley
- *Bea* By Christine Sharp

Goodbye Song

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.....)

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the last line rather than 'library friends' 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.