

# LEARNING TIME

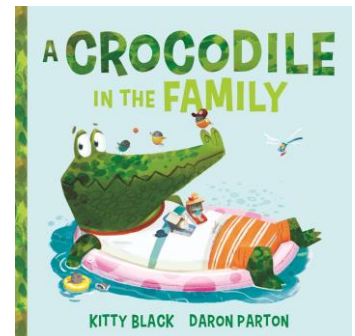
## A Crocodile in the Family Kitty Black and Daron Parton

*Crocodile hatches from his egg to be welcomed into the bird family. But why do the birds keep him? Crocodile is helpful, strong and fun but the birds have a very special reason why they keep him.*

*The clever use of colour and enlargement of words throughout the text highlights the rare and usual words you will add to your child's vocabulary.*

*Colourful and bright illustrations depict Australian animals trying to understand why would the birds keep a crocodile.*

*A fun and beautiful story about belonging, acceptance and the meaning of family.*



### Key Message for Parents | The best learning happens in nurturing relationships

Children's brains adapt to the environment in which they find themselves. Positive, warm and predictable environments are critical to optimize brain development. Children will feel secure when the adults around them are considerate, respectful and provide lots of positive interactions.

Some ideas to share with parents/carers are:

- Praise a child's effort, no matter how small.
- Spend time playing, reading and singing with your child. They love to be with you and share fun experiences.

### Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

When children feel safe, secure, and supported they grow in confidence to explore and learn.

Educators can support children's learning by

- Encouraging children to make choices and decisions. Provide open ended play opportunities that allow children to decide what they want to do.
- Spending time interacting and talking with each child. Talk about what you can see in the environment around you. Talk about what you are doing that day. Ask questions about what the child is doing.

## 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!*



*You may like to introduce the book at this stage, or use a song to help prepare your group and introduce the upcoming story and activities.*

## Song

### 5 Cheeky Monkeys

*5 cheeky monkeys swinging in a tree*

*Teasing Mr Crocodile, you can't catch me*

*Along comes Mr Crocodile as quiet as can be*

*And snap goes the crocodile, snap, snap snap*

*You missed me you missed me now you got it kiss me, mwah*

*4 cheeky monkeys swinging in a tree*

*Teasing Mr Crocodile, you can't catch me*

*Along comes Mr Crocodile as quiet as can be*

*And snap goes the crocodile, snap, snap snap*

*You missed me you missed me now you got it kiss me, mwah*

*3 cheeky monkeys swinging in a tree  
Teasing Mr Crocodile, you can't catch me  
Along comes Mr Crocodile as quiet as can be  
And snap goes the crocodile, snap, snap snap  
You missed me you missed me now you got it kiss me, mwah*

*2 cheeky monkeys swinging in a tree  
Teasing Mr Crocodile, you can't catch me  
Along comes Mr Crocodile as quiet as can be  
And snap goes the crocodile, snap, snap snap  
You missed me you missed me now you got it kiss me, mwah*

*1 cheeky monkey swinging in a tree  
Teasing Mr Crocodile, you can't catch me  
Along comes Mr Crocodile as quiet as can be  
And snap goes the crocodile, snap, snap snap  
You missed me you missed me now you got it kiss me, mwah*

### **Before Reading**

Explain that the book you are reading today is about families. Families come in all shapes and sizes. Today's story is called A Crocodile in the family? Does anyone have a crocodile in their family?

A fun technique to teach children about how a book works is to hold the book upside down and backwards. See if any of the children notice your mistake. They might point out its upside down so flip it the right way. Do they notice its backwards? Turn the book the right way and begin the story.

Read the title and run your finger under the words as you show the cover. Ask the children what they see. Explain that its your job the read the words and the children's job to read the pictures!

### **During Reading**

Place emphasis on the words that are enlarged in colour throughout the story. Add lots of expression and enthusiasm when you are reading. Pause to add emphasis. When you show enthusiasm and interest in the story the children will enjoy and be interested in the story as well.

Encourage the children to join making the sound of the cracking of the egg.

Ask the children to predict why they think the birds keep the crocodile.



## Extension Ideas

- Make a crocodile out of wooden clothes pegs  
<https://www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/activity-articles/make-a-peg-crocodile/news-story/488e80dadff7f3b7d8f3dbe9e87c5c9c>
- Letter C – Crocodile starts with C. What are some other words that start with C? Do any of the children's names start with C?
- Have lots of books both non fiction and pictures books about crocodiles and families available for children to read at their leisure
- Make a class book about all the children's families. Have this on display so everyone can read about all the different types of families. <https://earlylearningideas.com/family-theme-printable/>
- There are lots of Australian animals in the illustrations. Go back through the story and see if the children can name them all. Are there any other animals in the pictures?

## STEM Focus

Science involves looking at animals and where they live. Children love to learn about animals so research crocodiles and their habitats. Find out the places that crocodiles live around the world. Are there certain areas in Australia where you will find more crocodiles.

Make a diorama of the crocodiles habitat.

What sort of water do crocodiles live in- fresh or salty? What is the difference between fresh and salt water.

Try this simple and fun experiment with preschoolers to demonstrate the difference in salt and fresh water. All you need is some water, salt, cups and food colouring.

<http://preschoolpowolpackets.blogspot.com/2014/05/salt-water-and-fresh-water-experiment.html>

Are crocodiles and alligators the same? What are the differences?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6L65dOKvZo>

## 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. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Shoo you Crocodile** by *Author and Illustrator*
- **Love makes a Family** by *Sophie Barr*
- **Pink!** by *Margaret Wild*

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

### 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.....)!*