

# LEARNING TIME

## All About Hairy Maclary by Lynley Dodd

Meet mischievous Hairy Maclary and his rollicking gang in this delightful book for babies.

A shaped board book about Lynley Dodd's most delightful canine character that's perfectly pitched for babies and toddlers. *Hairy Maclary is a rascally dog, he's a playful dog and a hungry dog.*

Wherever Hairy Maclary goes, trouble is never far away! Find out all about the raggedy rascal in this delightful introduction to the bestselling Hairy Maclary and Friends series by Lynley Dodd.



### Key Message for Parents | The brain develops through use.

Some ideas to share with parents/carers are:

- Read books with their babies from birth - it's never too early to start.
- Babies and toddlers have a strong attachment with a loved one, positive shared experiences such as reading, rhyming and singing build this bond, and connections in the brain.
- Repeat the book often as repetition builds language development through strong brain connections.
- Respond to your baby's attempts to communicate by talking back to them.

### Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes.

Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts.

Educators can support children's learning by

- Allowing and planning time in the day for talk, play, song and stories.
- Providing a safe environment where they can explore their world and use language.
- Asking and answering questions during the reading or discussion of books and other texts.
- listening and responding to sounds and patterns in speech, stories and rhyme.

## 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

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

### Welcome song - Come Along

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

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

### Repeat and replace 'sing' with bounce, rock, clap etc.

*Come along and bounce with me, bounce with me, bounce with me*

*Come along and bounce with me, it's time for story time!*

## Song

This Is Puppy's Dog House - try this rhyme with actions or sign language.

This is puppy's dog house.

This is puppy's bed.

Here is puppy's food bowl.

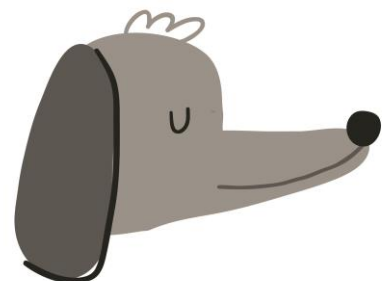
So that he can be fed.

Puppy has a collar.

With his name on it, too.

Take a stick and throw it.

He'll bring it back to you.



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

As the Story Time Presenter you can assist parents in making the most of sharing books with their baby. Inform parents/families that they can attend Story Time, or when they are at home they can choose a time when their baby is content and alert enough to enjoy the time together. Explain that they do not have read the whole story word for word, but be ready to finish when baby loses interest. Other tips for parents include:

- Be enthusiastic saying how happy you are to be together.
- Ask your child what they think the book is about by looking at the cover and asking enquiring questions and observations like '*what do you see, do you know what it is?, look! It's a dog!*'.
- Introduce the book name, author (the person who writes the story) and illustrator (the person who draws the pictures). This book is by Lynley Dodd.
- Show how to read a book, the front, the back, the direction of reading and use your finger to trace the direction of the words.
- Be enthusiastic about books, demonstrate your love of books and how special they are.

## During Reading

You may want to use this session as an opportunity to role-model to parents and families some positive ways to share books and stories.

- Look interested in the book. It's important to relax and enjoy the time together.
- Point to the page and describe what you see, use clear language. Repetition is great.
- Watch each child's engagement, allow them to point, talk/babble and respond to them.
- Let them touch the book and guide the interaction. It's ok to skip pages, and not finish the book. You do not have to read every word or explain everything. Keep it fun.
- Talk about what you see on the page. You can ask them to predict what the words say or what will happen next. Children can use the picture to prompt them, and also the sound of the rhyming word: hairy and maclary.
- Explain tricky words like *rascally*, *cheeky*, *racing* try alternative words like *naughty*, *silly*, *running*.

## After Reading

After reading show that you enjoyed the book by saying something positive about it. Also remind parents that even though their child may be a young baby it is important for them to experience stories, talking and conversation. Their child may not be old enough to respond with words, but they will respond with a babble, a look, a smile or by touching the book.

- Ask if your child enjoyed it. Offer to read it again, then or another time.
- Talk about what was in the book, repeat words in the book, and explain anything that is unknown.

## Song

### I have a little black and white dog

Sung to the tune of *She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain*.

Oh, I have a little black and white dog. Ruff! Ruff!  
Oh, I have a little black and white dog. Ruff! Ruff!  
Oh, I have a little dog, I have a little dog,  
Oh, I have a little black and white dog. Ruff! Ruff!

Oh, he always comes to meet me when I call. Here, boy...  
Oh, he always comes to meet me when I call. Here, boy...  
Oh, I have a little dog, I have a little dog,  
Oh, he always comes to meet me when I call. Here, boy...

*Other lyrics...*

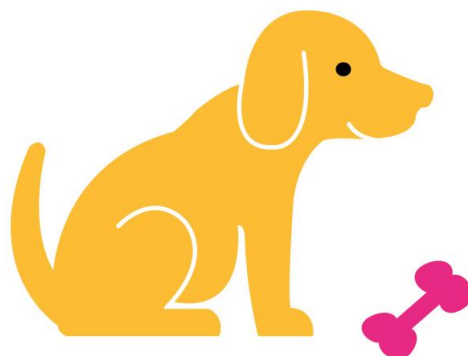
Oh, he jumps up high to give me a big lick. Slurp, slurp...

Oh, I feed him crunchy dog food every day. Crunch, crunch

## Extension Ideas

Talk about other animals. If you have pets, talk about them using as many words as you can to describe them.

- Borrow books on dogs or other animals from the library.
- Go on a dog hunt, when out for a walk try to spot as many dogs as you can and talk about them.
- Make a playdough animal and name all the parts as you create together.
- Act out the actions in the book, like chasing, sleeping, playing, eating.



## 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:

- **All about Spot** by *Eric Hill*
- **Happy Dog and Other Furry Friends** by *Roger Priddy*
- **Hairy Maclary from Donaldsons Dairy** by *Lynley Dodd*

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 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.....)!*