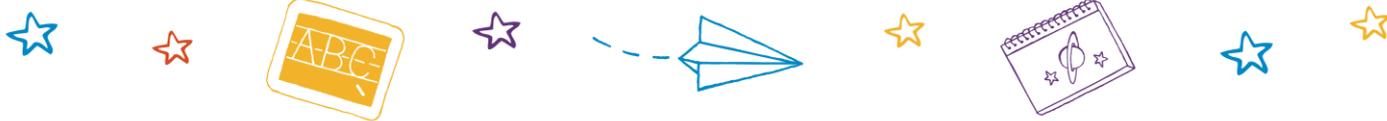


## Learning Time – session plans

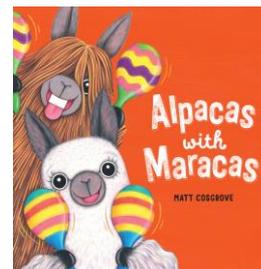


### Alpacas with Maracas

*By Matt Cosgrove*

*Get ready to shake and shimmy with this fun and colourful read!*

*Macca the alpaca and his best friend Al enter a talent competition. Together, they try all sorts of tricks, dancing and prancing, blowing and throwing until they discover something new, they can do which gets the crowd on their feet!*



*A hilarious story, and one that was shared for this year's National Simultaneous Storytime.*

#### Key Message for Parents | Children are born ready to use and learn mathematics

As educators and parents, we can optimize language acquisition through;

- Reading regularly to children
- Singing songs and rhymes together
- Encouraging dramatic or role play by having a dress up box and a few simple props. Join in the fun yourself and encourage imaginative play!
- Talking, responding and listening attentively to children

#### Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 4 : Children are confident and involved learners

We can help children become confident and involved learners by:

- Ensuring that all children have the opportunity to celebrate achievements. Make time for reflection and sharing of work as well as sharing achievements with families
- Building upon the languages and cultures in your groups. Get to know each child and their family!
- Ensuring children feel safe and supported by responding sensitively to their needs, cues and signals.

#### 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.

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

[thelittlebigbookclub.com.au](http://thelittlebigbookclub.com.au)     



### 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!

Welcome everyone – today's story is called *Alpacas with Maracas* by Matt Cosgrove. Who knows what an Alpaca is? Who knows what a maraca is? (if possible, have a maraca hiding behind your back and shake it!)



### Song: Alpaca Pokey (Hokey Pokey)

Get children to form a circle for this song!

You put your leg in, you put your leg out  
You put your leg in and you shake it all about  
You do the Alpaca Pokey and you turn around  
That's what it's all about!

Ask the children what "Alpaca" parts they want to put in next and continue. (tail, ears, tummy etc)

### Before Reading

Make sure everyone has got their wriggles out and is sitting comfortably, legs crossed and hands in laps. Introduce the book by firstly identifying the title, author and illustrator. Next ask your families what they can see on the cover!

### During Reading

The end papers of this book set the festive mood! Vibrant and colourful, these end papers feature alpacas and maracas, so spend a little time talking about the patterns and colours.

Matt Cosgrove's illustrations are immediately appealing and entertaining as Macca is introduced, followed by his best friend Al.

Take time to enjoy the humour and fun in each spread. Ask open-ended questions which will prompt critical thinking like "what do you think they will do with the maracas?" Wait for their answers and then turn the page and see!

### After Reading

- Learn about Alpacas – where do they come from? Where do they live and what do they eat?
- Do some comparative thinking: Do all Alpacas look the same? Identify and describe the physical differences between Macca and Al.
- Host your own talent show – who would like to show us some of the clever things that they can do?
- Maracas come from Latin America. Play some Latin American music and play the freeze game. The Hooley Dooley's have a fantastic song called **Keep on Dancing**, which has a Latin vibe! Perhaps you could make some maracas then dance with them to the music



### Extension activities and ideas

- Explore and learn more about traditional musical instruments. Are there any instruments which pertain to a particular culture in your group?)
- Learn how to make a “congo” line.
- Explore what it means to be a “good friend”. What values are important? How can we be a good friend? How was Al a good friend to Macca?
- Alpacas with Maracas gently explores the concept of “winning”. Discuss how taking part and having fun is more important than “winning”.

### Goodbye

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.

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/centre has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

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

- *I love to dance* by Anna Walker
- *The Wonky Donkey* by Craig Smith
- *Ballroom Bonanza* by Nina Rycroft

### 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.....)!*