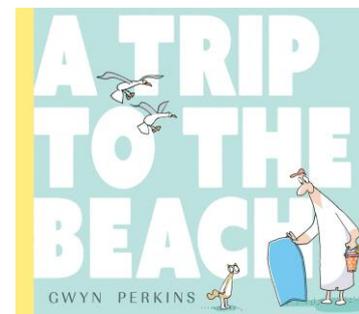




A Trip to the Beach By Gwyn Perkins

A beach adventure that involves a super sandcastle, fish and chips, lots of boats and some perfect waves. A story with gently humour about finding your way and the universal magic of the ocean.



Key Message for Parents | The brain develops through use

During your session it's a great idea to share some key messages with parents/carers to inform and encourage them. Messages could include:

- Engagement with age appropriate stories stimulates brain development and helps build language and literacy skills
- Children explore their world by using their bodies and all their senses
- Participating in developmentally appropriate experiences support positive brain development.

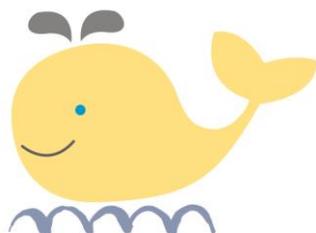
Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

We can help children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment by:

- Exploring sharing stories about the natural environment
- Demonstrating an appreciation for the natural environment and showing gratitude
- Contributing to increasing their knowledge of the natural environments

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     



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: Here is the Sea

Here is the sea,

The wavy sea, (Make a wavy see with by holding you arm horizontally in front of you)

Here is a boat, (Make a fist)

And here is me! (Pop up your thumb)

All the fishes (Use your hand to make wiggling fish.)

Way down below,

Wiggle their tails

And away they go! (Put your hands behind your back.)

You can hear this song from Playschool here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A100swpdMKc>

Before Reading

This book is called 'A Trip to the Beach'. Read the title of the book and ask the children, *Who has been to the beach before?* Ask the children what things they saw at the beach and what things they did there.

Direct the children's attention to the cover and discuss the beach things on the cover (seagulls, boogie board, bucket and spade.) Ask the children to flap their arms like a seagull. Read the title again and begin.

During Reading

One the first page the characters are packing to go to the beach. Engage the children in the story by talking about the things they're packing for the outing and how they might use them.

The book is written in a way that invites readers to join in. The second spread uses the words 'spy' to name things in the illustrations. Encourage the children to seek and find the objects in the pictures. When Iggy runs towards the surf encourage the children to make predictions before you turn the page. *What do you think is going to happen?* The boat page asks, "*Can you guess what kind?*" Offer time for the children to guess what sort of boat the characters will choose.

When the characters put on their life jackets ask adults and children to pretend to put on their own life jackets and then pretend to row with their arms as the character explore the mangroves. On the next page, ask the children what they can see in the rock pool. You might be able to find some of the same creatures when Iggy goes snorkeling over the page.



After Reading

Song –Row Row Row Your Boat

Children can sit facing a carer and hold hands with their partner to sing while they rock together.

Row, row, row your boat

Gently down the stream

Merrily merrily, merrily, merrily

Life is but a dream!

Beach play: Make sandcastles in the sandpit with buckets and spades. Experiment with wet sand and dry sand in trays or buckets.

Paper Plate Beach Craft: Using a paper plate, paint the one half blue (water) and the other half yellow (sand). Provide children with beach themed stickers to stick onto their beach scene.

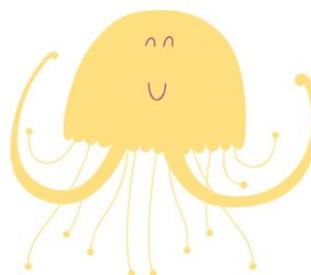
Sensory play: Half fill a tray or tub with water and add boats and sea creature figurines for children to explore. Remind parents/carers that this could also be done in the bath, or at the kitchen sink. Draw children's attention to things that float and sink. Include a small net for scooping things out. This is a great STEM activity to talk about and explore buoyancy and sinking.

Extension Ideas –

The Little Boat (The Wiggles/French Lullaby)

You can hear The Wiggles sing this song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXD1Wg4qx80>

The little boat's ready to row
Life jackets on, here we go
Row up and down on the sea
Let's take a trip to Paree
The ocean makes waves for the ride
The rise and the fall of the tide
The seagulls look down for fishy
A trip to Paree on the sea
Li, li, li, li, li, li, li
Li, li, li, li, li, li, li



Play 'I spy'. Rather than using the starting sound of an object describe the features of the object as they do with the cow in the story. *E.g. I spy something that is tall with green leaves. A Tree! I spy something that has a cover and lots of pages. A book!*



Create your own 'sand' play-dough by substituting white flour for whole meal flour. Do not add colouring. Offer to children with beach themed articles such as small stones, shells and sea creature figurines.

Go on a beach walk. See what things you notice/find along the way. Photograph them and create a beach collage.

STEM FOCUS

Properties of liquids: Create a sensory ocean using an empty bottle. Add water, oil and blue food colouring into the bottle and secure the lid tightly with strong tape. SAFETY NOTE: Supervise closely as the lid could pose a choking hazard. You may also like to add some other small elements such as some glass gemstones. Support children to experiment with shaking the bottles. Encourage children to talk about what they can see- what colours –and make link their observations to the ocean. Draw their attention to the oil and blue water. Can they mix them together? What happens when they shake the bottle? Continue to let children experiment, pose questions, make predictions and develop theories.

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.

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.

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

- **Miffy at the Seaside** by Dick Bruna
- **Grug at the Beach** by Ted Prior
- **Magic Beach** by Alison Lester

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.....)!