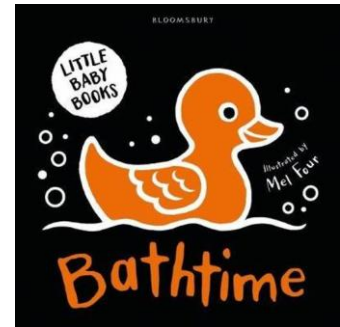


LEARNING TIME

Bathtime by Mel Four

Black and white board books are perfect for helping your baby to identify first objects and their very first words. Bathtime is a gorgeous board book full of things a baby sees during bathtime and introduces the words duck, soap, bubbles, towel, and pyjamas. Strikingly beautiful in black and white with shiny pops of colour on every page, Bathtime will help a baby learn the words for this daily routine.



Key Message for Parents | Children learn language by listening to it and using it.

You can support parents' understanding of how they can help babies develop their natural language abilities. Some ideas to share with parents are:

- Talk to your baby constantly as you are going about your normal everyday experiences. These experiences like getting dressed, eating, changing nappies, cooking, and washing, cleaning and bathing provide opportunities to sing, talk and play with language together .
- Give babies time to respond to your language by looking at baby's face and smile or reply to the sounds and babbling they make.
- Read books that are illustrated with familiar objects to enhance babies' vocabulary
- Nursery rhymes like "Here we go round the mulberry bush" is easily changed to incorporate everyday activities, for example "This is the way we have a bath, brush our teeth, wash our hands, eat our lunch".

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

We can help young children become confident communicators by:

- allowing time during Story Time for play, song and stories.
- giving praise and recognizing all achievements, big and small.
- interacting both verbally and non-verbally to what babies can see, hear, smell, touch and taste. To sharpen babies' hearing abilities, point out the sounds around them such as a plane overhead, traffic, or other sounds you can hear.
- creating opportunities for babies to play with each other or their carers. When playing, encourage them to get nice and close. Copy some of baby's actions, facial expressions or sounds, and show them new actions. Play hiding games, like peek-a-boo.

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.

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!

A yellow circle with a white border containing text. The text is in a black, sans-serif font and reads: "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." The text is centered within the circle.

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.

Song

Five Little Ducks

Have five rubber ducks out where the babies can see them as they arrive for Story Time. If possible, you could also have a larger rubber duck as Mother Duck. You can use the ducks to sing the rhyme through the first time and then use your fingers and encourage the babies and carers to copy you. Babies can face their carer on the second singing of the rhyme.

Five little ducks went swimming one day (hold 5 fingers up and move them up and down)

Over the hill and far away (swing hands up and down)

Mother duck said, "Quack, quack, quack, quack" (use hands to make a quacking movement with the opposite hand)

And only four little ducks came back! (hold 4 fingers up)

Repeat this verse and replace number with 4, 3, 2, 1 Little Ducks

Before Reading

Hand out some scarves for each parent/carer and ask them to put their child on their laps so the baby is looking directly at them. Pass around items secretly from the box you have in front of you so that baby can't see what is in your hand. Alternatively you could have items wrapped up in scarves already and then hand them out so neither carer or baby knows what is hiding. The items could be a range of plastic toys that might be used at Bath Time (e.g. plastic toys, sponge, soap, face washer, etc).

Sing (or say) the song below:

What is hiding behind my scarf?

What is hiding behind my scarf?

What is hiding behind my scarf?

What could it be?

What could it be? What is hiding behind my scarf?

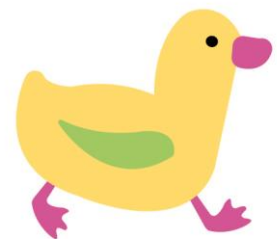
Encourage the carers to talk about / play with the items with their baby and then share with someone else, playing hide and seek again with a different item. Again this can go on for as long as babies are engaged

Explain that babies learn through exploration, so allow time for parent / carer and baby to explore the physical book before reading it (with very young babies this may include them putting the book into their mouth). Make suggestions for your families, encourage baby to feel the book, to try to turn the pages, flip it and open and close it. Parents / carers can respond to their baby, showing them the illustrations by gently pointing to them as you read. You could have a teddy on your lap that you use as your baby, so that parents / carers can copy the things you are saying and doing.

During Reading

As you read the book trace the words with baby's finger. This will help them associate the words and picture to what you are saying. Touch is also important for brain development.

Point to each picture as you say the word.



Talk about the colour on the page- "Look the soap is pink" Point out some other things that are that colour around you.

Make any sounds that go with the word- A duck goes quack, quack quack.

Count how many of each item are on the page. Let's count how many bubbles there are? One , two, three.

After Reading

It is time to sing again! Sing a bath time version of If You're Happy and You Know It, using the story as your guide.

"If you're happy and you know it,

- use the soap,
- play with the duck,
- blow some bubbles,
- use your towel,
- put on pyjamas

Have some toys of the bathtime items available to explore with baby. Spending time playing with your baby is not only fun it will help their development.

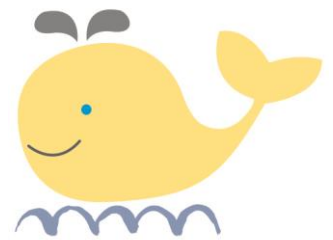
- Rubber ducks – waddle the ducks over baby's tummy quacking as you go
- Bubbles - Blow some bubbles
- Towel - play peek a boo

Extension Ideas

Singing in the bath is fun, relaxing, and it'll encourage little ones to wash too! Make a pretend fish, by stuffing a child's sock with a bar of soap, a fun way to wash your baby.

Singing 'If you're happy and you know it' in the bath while acting out all the movements (clap your hands, stomp your feet while sitting, flap your arms, etc.) in the water is a great sensory experience for all children. Gently splash and engage in some water play with your baby.

If your baby is distressed or unhappy, do not push water play, instead you may like to sing calm and gentle songs/lullabies to help relax babies during bath time.



Safety Note: Always supervise your baby while they are in the bath or around water. Never leave a child unattended around or in water.

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:

- **Outdoors** by Mel Four
- **Baby Gets Dressed** by Katrina Germein and Sascha Hutchinson
- **See Me Move** by Sascha Hutchinson and Heidi Linehan
- **Rudie Nudie** by Emma Quay

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.....)!