

Play is the most powerful way young children learn.

Every time you play, sing or read with children they are learning about language.

By sharing this book and play experiences with children they will have the opportunity to:

- Enjoy stories and imaginary play.
- Be aware of different feelings and empathise with others.
- Learn about Australian animals.
- Develop gross motor skills.

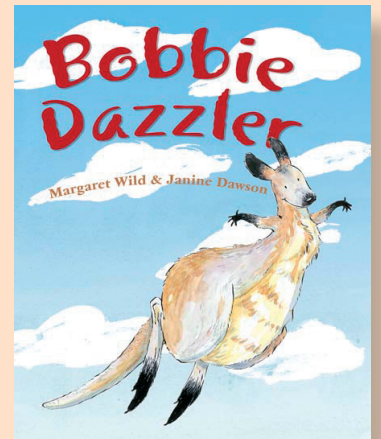
We hope these activities will provide you with a starting point for fun and purposeful play with children.

## Engaging With Language and Literacy



Talking about what happens to the characters in books helps children make the connections between their own lives and the lives of others.

- When reading the story, discuss how Bobby was feeling at different times. Have the children ever had those feelings?
- After reading the story can the children remember the things that Bobby could do. Talk about things that they can do well.
- Make a book with a page for each child showing something they can do. Let the children illustrate their page or take a photo of them doing their amazing activity.
- Talk about what facial expressions Bobby had during the story. Give children hand mirrors or stand as a group in front of a large mirror to make the faces e.g. happy, proud, sad, cross etc.
- Read other stories that have Australian animals as the characters, e.g. Koala Lou, Possum Magic, Wombat Stew.
- Use puppets to tell the story. Let different children be the different animals.



## Bobbie Dazzler

by Margaret Wild & Janine Dawson

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# Discovering Sensory Play



- Create the outback in the sand tray with gum leaves, bark and Australian animal toys or take the toys outside to play with in the garden.
- Read the story to the children while they are finger painting. Can they make their fingers jump, bounce, hop, whirl and twirl?

# Exploring Our World



- Create an Australian outback corner in the room. Make masks with the children so they can role-play the animals.
- Set up a display of books and pictures of Australian animals. Write down what the children know about these animals and display their ideas.

# Enjoying Music and Movement



- Let the children join in the actions while you read the story.
- Sing Kookaburra Sits in the Old Gum Tree and other songs about Australian animals.
- Play Punchinello and Follow the Leader with the children.
- Play Simon Says use the movements from the books as well as some of your own.

## Other Books to Try

Josephine Wants to Dance by Jackie French & Bruce Whatley

Six White Boomers by Rolf Harris and Bruce Whatley

Diary of a Wombat by Jackie French & Bruce Whatley

Koala Lou by Mem Fox & Pamela Lofts

Edward the Emu by Sheena Knowles & Rod Clement

Edwina the Emu by Sheena Knowles & Rod Clement

The Smallest Bilby and the Midnight Star by Nette Hilton & Bruce Whatley

Wombat Stew by Marcia K. Vaughan & Pamela Lofts

## Rhymes and Songs

### **Kookaburra Sits in the Old Gum Tree**

Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree  
Merry, merry King of the bush is he  
Laugh kookaburra, laugh kookaburra  
Gay your life must be

Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree  
Eating all the gumdrops he can see  
Stop, Kookaburra, Stop, Kookaburra  
Leave some there for me.

Use this rhyme to encourage the child to try different actions and use some of the actions that Bobby attempts.

### **Everybody Do This**

Everybody do this, do this, do this  
Everybody do this just like me.

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