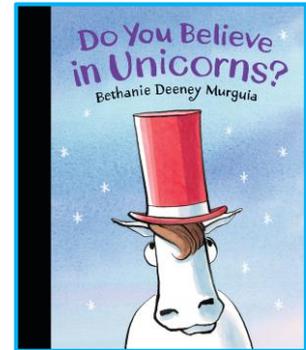


Do You Believe In Unicorns? By Bethanie Deeney Murguia

This enchanting and funny book will encourage children to listen, laugh and think. Bethanie Deeney Murguia's whimsical watercolour illustrations and "talkative" text is fun and easy to read. *Do You Believe in Unicorns?* will have readers guessing until the very end!



Key Message for Parents | The Best Learning Happens In Nurturing Relationships

What is essential for optimal brain development is stable, loving, relationships and low stress, happy environments. Children's brains adapt to the environment in which they are developing. Nurturing relationships lay the foundations for many developmental outcomes, such as self-confidence, motivation and a love of learning.

Making time in your day to read, sing or go for a walk together will build a sense of love and connection that will grow as your child does. It will also be building a healthy, happy brain!

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

Educators can help children to become confident and involved learners by:

- Planning learning experiences which are open ended and relevant
- Responding positively to a child's input and ideas. This tells the child you value them, recognise their thinking, and will encourage them to participate again
- Incorporating their ideas and interests when planning activities
- Encouraging children to predict and problem solve

Find booklists, tip sheets, nursery rhymes and activity and learning time sheets @
thelittlebigbookclub.com.au





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.

Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

and welcome to you!



Song

I Wish I Was a Lovely Unicorn

(To the tune If You're Happy and You Know It)

Oh, I wish I was a magic unicorn.

Oh, I wish I was a magic unicorn.

Oh, I'd frolic and I'd play.

And I'd dream the day away.

Oh, I wish I was a lovely unicorn.

Oh, I wish I was a magic unicorn

Oh I wish I was a magic unicorn

With a twinkle in my eye,

I would dance across the sky

Oh I wish I was a magic unicorn





Before Reading

Gather your listeners around and encourage them to find a spot and make themselves comfortable.

Get them to “get their wiggles out” but playing a simple game of Copycat. Wiggle and shake your hands, put them on your head, touch your knees etc. then place them in your lap – ready to listen!

- Introduce today's picture book by reading out its title and its author and illustrator
- Get the children to describe what they can see on the front cover
- What do they think the story is about?

Show children a couple of pictures of unicorns. Where do you think unicorns live? What makes them so special – discuss as a group. Who believes unicorns are real? I wonder whether we might find the answer in today's story?

During Reading

The story begins by introducing the main character, a horse (or is it a unicorn!) It continues using a dialogue style of text, where the text reads like a conversation. This style of writing makes it easy to inject lots of expression and fun as you read.

The illustrations are simple, with the red-hatted horse/unicorn featuring in every spread. Ask the children to describe where it is and what it is doing.

The mystery and magic is cleverly increases through questions, thoughts and lots of second guessing! Encourage your listeners to respond and contribute their thoughts too.

After Reading

Do You Believe in Unicorns? concludes on a mysterious note and is a perfect way to begin a discussion! Taking time to reflect after a story develops comprehension skills as well as giving children an opportunity to articulate their thoughts and ideas.

- Did we find out whether unicorns were real or not?
- What did you enjoy about the story?
- How did the illustrator make the pictures? Can you guess what she used?





Activity Time

Make a unicorn horn!

What you need

- Party hats
- Streamers
- Crepe paper that has been fringed
- Glue sticks
- Glitter or gems to decorate



What to do:

1. Give each child a party hat and a let them create their own magical unicorn horn.
2. Fringed crepe paper can be precut and then glued around in layers.
3. Create a mane using long coloured streamers. Add sparkles and ears if you like as well

Extension Activities:

- Unicorn book mark
- Paper bag unicorn puppet
- Make a magic wand



STEM | Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

Making playdough is a way to incorporate maths and science. Take notice of the measurements when working with ingredients. Watch how the mixture transform from dry ingredients, to liquid to a solid dough. Involve children in the making process.



Unicorn Play dough

- 2 cups of plain Flour
- ½ cup of Salt
- 2 tablespoons of Cream of tartar
- 2 tablespoons of oil
- 1 ½ of Boiling water (adult supervision when using hot liquid)
- food colouring and glitter!

Place ingredients into a mixing bowl and use a wooden spoon to combine all ingredients together, sprinkle flour onto a bench and knead the mixture until dough forms.

Extend the children's learning through predictive questions like – what do you think will happen when....

Encourage children to describe what they observe as it is happening.



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

- **Thelma the Unicorn** by Aaron Blabey
- **The Gruffalo Child** by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler
- **Once upon a Small Rhinoceros** by Meg McKinley and Leila Rudge

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 choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (wave) say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye to all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!

