ACTIVITY TIME

The Beach Wombat
Susannah Chambers and Mark Jackson

An adventurous young wombat finds his way onto the beach before the rain arrives to send him home for dinner! What fun will you have at the beach?

We’re going to the beach!

You will need:
- Template (see attached)
- Scissors
- Paper plate
- Glue or sticky tape
- Pop stick
- Pencils, crayons, textas (optional).

What to do:
1. Set-up a play space (outdoors if possible) at home with your toddler to pretend to visit the beach
2. Talk with your toddler about what you might need for a day at the beach – maybe a towel, bathers, hat, sunscreen, water bottle, bucket & spade?
3. Gather items and set up – lay the towel out, put bathers and sunscreen on, wear the hat, etc. Your child can add favourite toys such as a teddy or doll
4. If your child wants to pretend to be a wombat at the beach then use the template to assemble a wombat mask:
   a. decorate the template and cut out the mask
   b. glue the mask to the paper plate and cut out the eye-holes
   c. stick the mask onto a pop stick
5. Your child can enjoy pretending to be a wombat at the beach like in the story, by sitting in the sun, walking on the beach, and splashing water.

More ideas:
Visit the beach, or a playground with a sandpit. Spend time with your child feeling the sand and describing it to them “This is soft sand. It’s fun to dig and play with.” Help them feel the difference between wet sand and dry sand while talking about what they are feeling.

STEM Focus
Children are natural scientists. Spending time exploring outside in your backyard, at the park, at the beach or out bush, gives your child plenty of interesting objects to look at, touch and talk about. Collecting shells, leaves and spotting animals and insects helps build investigative skills. These simple activities are using play to support your child’s learning about STEM concepts.

Songs to sing
Here is the Sea, The Wavy Sea or A Sailor went to Sea Sea Sea.

Key message:
Children learn by being engaged and doing.

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Activity: We’re going to the beach!
Age group: Toddlers