

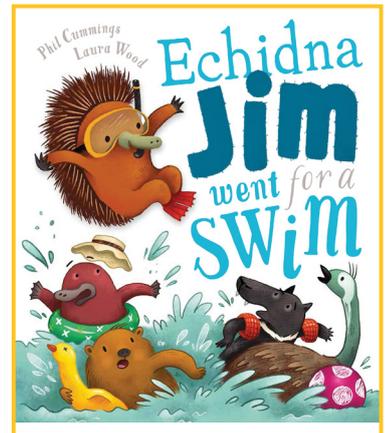


April 2016

Book title: ECHIDNA JIM WENT FOR A SWIM

By Phil Cummings and Laura Wood

A trip to the beach in a bus full of friends! Illustrator Laura Wood has created a friendly bunch of Australian animals that young children will adore. The star of the story is a spiky Echidna called Jim. Echidna Jim is a loveable but socially awkward animal. He tumbles into others and hurts them, he bursts their buoyancy vests while they are swimming and he even pops the bus tyre! However instead of getting annoyed with Jim, his friends quickly work together through each problematic situation. This is a story about friendship, patience and the importance of accepting those who are a bit different!



Key Message for Parents

Children's Wellbeing Is Critical To Brain Development And Learning

Wellbeing is defined as the result of social, emotional, cognitive and physical health. It is enhanced through good nutrition, exercise and spending lots of 1-on-1 time with your child. Making time to read and play together is crucial for a child's self esteem and confidence. It tells a child they are valued and loved.

The quality of a child's relationships in the early years lays the foundation for a wide range of important developmental outcomes such as self-confidence, motivation, self-regulation and learning. (National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, 2009a)

Learning Outcomes

Outcome 1: Children Have A Strong Sense Of Identity

A toddler's identity evolves by continuous exposure to positive experiences, where they develop an understanding of themselves (as important and valued) and in turn feel a sense of belonging.

Educators, parents and caregivers can help develop a child's sense of identity by:

- Being supportive, responsive and attentive when communicating with a child. Using eye contact when talking to a child shows them you are listening and value what they are saying
- Recognizing and acknowledging a child's cultural background, encouraging them to share stories and language from home
- Celebrate all achievements big and small. We are all learning together!

Find booklists, tip sheets, nursery rhymes and activity and learning time sheets @

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au





Themes of this story include:

- Play
- Australian Animals
- Friendship

Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their babies.

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

Today's song is about a little prickly creature called an Echidna. We are going to meet an echidna in the short video clip!

[www. http://splash.abc.net.au/home#!/media/151868/a-song-about-an-echidna](http://splash.abc.net.au/home#!/media/151868/a-song-about-an-echidna)

I love My Echnida by Don Spencer

I love my echidna (hands to the heart)

I love my echidna (hands to the heart)

No one else has got a pet like mine (hands out, point to self)

He's prickly and small (make hand into a fist)

He won't chase a ball (move head, as in "no")

But me and my echidna get on fine (point to self, thumbs up!)





Before Reading

Tell me, who loves swimming? Where do you like to go swimming? In today's story a group of friends go to the beach for a swim-its called **Echidna Jim Goes For A Swim** by Phil Cummings and it's illustrated by Laura Wood. What animals can we see on the front cover? Look at the animals that are in the water. Do they look happy? I wonder why they look so worried...let's find out together.

Are we all sitting on our bottoms? hands in our laps? Excellent! we are now ready to listen to **Echidna Jim Goes For A Swim!** by Phil Cummings and Laura Wood.

During Reading

Laura Wood brings to life a group of warm and friendly animals. Take time to enjoy her humorous illustrations. Talk about the expressions on the faces of the animals, do they look happy, sad or worried? Why do you think they are feeling this way?

When the animals blow up their inflatable toys get the children to help too! Ask them to blow with you as you read! When Echidna Jim jumps in the water and pops the toys ask the children if they can predict what might happen. You could use a balloon to reinforce the concept of the air coming out, both with the inflatable toys and the bus tyre.

After Reading

What accidents did Echidna Jim have in the story? What happened and how did they happen? Did Echidna Jim do these things on purpose?

Talk about how accidents sometimes happen. Share stories and experiences. Have you ever accidentally broken something or hurt someone when you tripped over? How can we make it better? By saying sorry! Echidna Jim's friends didn't really mind and they still wanted to be his friend!

Song

Skiddermarink ([Watch this link for the actions! www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohCrlfw7re8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohCrlfw7re8))

Skiddermarink a dink, a dink

Skiddermarink a doo

I love you!

Skiddermarink a dink, a dink

Skiddermarink a doo

I love you!

I love you in the morning and in the afternoon

I love you in the evening and underneath the moon

Oh, Skiddermarink a dink, a dink

Skiddermarink a doo

I love you!





Activity time

Spikey Echidna!

A simple and fun activity that children can create all by themselves!

What you will need

- Toothpicks or plain matchsticks (you could also use twigs)
- Playdoh or plasticine
- Googly eyes or stickers
- Some small paper plates to build the echidna on

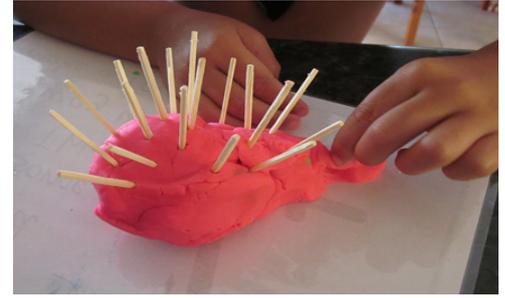


image from rhymetime4kids.blogspot.com

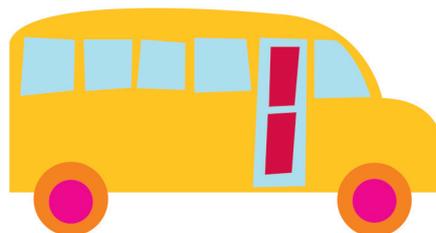
Please Note: Parent supervision is essential.

What to do:

1. Give each child a paper plate and a ball of plasticine or play doh.
2. You could get parents to write their child's name on the plate. (It's a simple work mat as well as handy base to carry the creations home on!)
3. Have some small bowls with matchsticks and googly eyes on the table.
4. First get the children to shape the dough into a body shape.
5. Encourage children to think which end the head might be and they can press two eyes into the dough.
6. Next get the children to push the matchsticks into the dough. This is the fun bit! Cover the whole body with spines if they can. Can they think of a name for their echidna?

Extension Ideas

- Blow up some balloons quite small. Lay them on a blanket and have the group hold the edges. Have fun lifting the blanket together and watching the balloons move up and down
- Set up some chairs in two rows like a bus! Who will be the driver? Sing The wheels On The Bus, as you are travelling to the beach!
- Sing If You're Happy And You Know It! Use images to explore and discuss feelings





Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of relevant books that parents might want to borrow. The Little Big Book Club recommends the following books to support learning in this area -

- **Guess How Much I Love You** by Sam Mc Bratney
- **The Red Feather** by Ben Kitchin
- **Hop Up Wriggle Over** by Elizabeth Honey

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.....)!

