

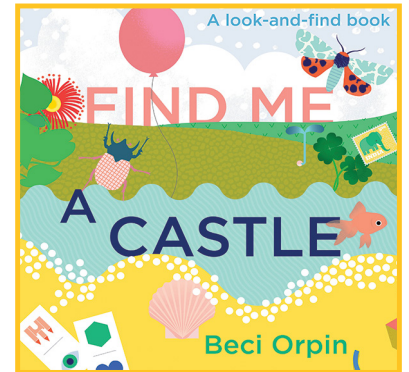


**March 2016**

**Book title: FIND ME A CASTLE**

By Beci Orpin

The joy children feel when investigating and finding new objects is captured beautifully in Beci Orpin's picture book Find Me a Castle. Each page takes children on a new adventure where there are clues to listen out for in the story telling, and many items to discover. Each new setting, a book shelf to a busy city scape, gives children and adults alike the chance to discover hidden objects, in particular a very special castle on each page. Find Me a Castle is a bright, clever book that encourages children to return time and time again, delving further into the fun treasure hunt.



### Key Message for Parents

#### Children Learn Through Being Engaged And Doing

Preschoolers are active beings and active learners. One of the most powerful ways for them to learn is through play; the act of being engaged and doing. It is through play that children are able to explore important areas of development such as imagination, curiosity, problem solving, negotiating and reasoning.

When parents share books, songs and play they pass on a feeling of love and security that is vital in the development of a preschooler's confidence. A confident child is a child that is engaged and will love to learn new things.

Encourage parents to:

- Access free resources and programs through places such as libraries and playgroups that provide great opportunities for reading, socialising, play and confidence-building activities
- Read and play as much as possible from birth onwards. Picture books that encourage play through reading, and extension activities, are a great way to connect with busy active preschoolers. Reading does not have to be a static experience; children can be enthralled with a treasure hunt on a page just as they can in a real-world context
- Recognise that the best play in life is free! Parents can access easy play opportunities through simple objects and games in the home and in public spaces. Libraries offer free books and toys that focus on pretend play; the acting out scenarios from everyday life e.g. tea sets, train sets or cars, fruit and vegetable stalls, cash registers and dress up clothes.

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

[thelittlebigbookclub.com.au](http://thelittlebigbookclub.com.au)





## Learning Outcomes

### Outcome 5: Children Are Effective Communicators

- Communication is crucial for preschoolers and, at this developmental age, they will enjoy engaging and making meaning from a range of texts such as books, magazines, posters or recipes.
- When preschoolers are able to listen and respond to sounds, rhyme, stories and speech in context, they are exhibiting effective communication.
- The recognition and use of patterns and symbols in play is a sign that a preschooler is making sense of their world. The relationship that comes from connecting patterns and symbols allows children to express themselves and, to find context and subsequent meaning.
- Try alerting a preschooler's attention to symbols and patterns in their environment. When reading ask them; what is happening on the page? How do they know this? What can they see that tells them they are reading about a particular setting or situation, such as a museum or the beach? What does this mean to them?

### Themes of this story include:

- Colours
- Shapes
- Imagination

## 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. Singing "Hello" to children tells them that they are valued and that you are happy that they are here!

### Good Morning

*Good morning to you  
Good morning to you  
Good morning everybody  
And welcome to you!*



### TIP:

- For smaller groups use childrens names
- Say "good morning" or "Hello" in other languages.





## Song/Game

Ask your preschoolers to stand in a circle and listen very closely, as they are going to play a game that is fun but also a little tricky! Today's song is about listening, doing and having fun!

### Simon Says

*Simon says to shake your arms,  
Simon says to jump up and down,  
Now you put your hands on your head,  
But I didn't say Simon says.  
Gotcha!*

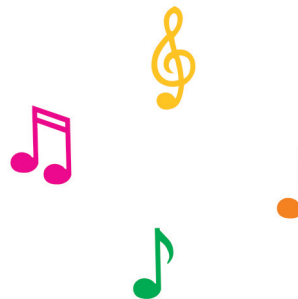
*Simon says to clap your hands,  
Simon says to stomp your feet,  
Now you put your hands on your legs.  
I didn't say Simon says.  
Gotcha!*

*Listen to what I say,  
And do what I ask you to,  
But only when Simon says.  
But only when Simon says.*

*Simon says to touch your knees,  
Simon says to stick out your tongue,  
Now you've got to turn around.  
I didn't say Simons says.  
Gotcha!*

*Listen to what I say,  
And do what I ask you to,  
But only when Simon says.  
But only when Simon says.*

*Simon says to wiggle your nose,  
Simon says to grab your ears,  
Now you've got to make a face.  
I didn't say Simon says.  
Gotcha! Gotcha!*





## Before Reading

Invite children to sit in a circle. Before you start reading, show preschoolers lots of different printed castle images. Hand them around the group. Where are these castles? Some may be on beach and some may be very old. Some castles may even be from a different country. What makes a castle? Talk about the structure and features of a castle. Are castles big or small? Who might live in a castle?

In our story today we are going to find lots of fun objects, people and things, maybe even a castle. Listen closely to the clues and try and spot all the different shapes you can see. Let's share today's story Find Me a Castle by Beci Orpin.

## During Reading

Find Me a Castle is a fun and quirky book that encourages children to hunt for the items and objects given as clues by the story teller. In a group setting you might like to use name tags on your preschoolers to invite each child to find the items in a fair way. It will be a big task to find everything suggested on the page in one story telling session so be prepared to return to the story at another time.

Emphasise the rhyme and context on each page, as it is very big part of how children will look for the pictures and ultimately the castle on each page. In some cases the castle will be prominent and in others it will be very well hidden so explore the feeling of challenge and frustration that children may feel. Try enhancing the story with your own clues, allow for pausing and hunting and encourage children to look. It's important to remind children not worry if they can't find anything on their first attempt. That's half the fun!

This book also celebrates shapes. What shapes can the children see? Are they easy shapes to find? What do some of the shape make when put together? Children will connect the items to a pattern that is symbolic of the setting....reinforce that at the end of each page, e.g. "Well done you found the stop sign, a taxi and the clouds of smoke, they are all part of a busy city street".

Tip: Read the story thoroughly to yourself, several times. Can you understand the clues and find the hidden castles? What challenges did you find in the hunt? Anticipating and preparing for these challenges will equip you to prepare children for the fun, and possibly daunting, challenge they will face on the castle hunt.

## After Reading

Children will be excited and would have loved playing the look-and-find game that Find Me a Castle offers. Try asking children to talk about what they liked about the book. Did they enjoy the hunt? What pages and settings do they remember the most and why?

Allowing their minds to settle and reflect on the experience rather than the ultimate success of finding all the items, will give preschoolers a chance to build their confidence through communication. They will have lots of ideas circulating in their minds and craft is a great expressive outlet to explore what they have newly discovered.



## Activity Time

### Build a Castle

Pretend play is a great way for preschoolers to communicate and act out what they understand; this helps them to find meaning from experience and develops a keen sense of self.

The children have looked for many castles now it's time to build one. Use template at the end of this learning time.

### What you will need:

- A4 white card for photocopying of template (see end page)
- Coloured paper
- Coloured markers
- Assorted craft materials (feathers, pom poms, sequins, wool)
- Glitter glue
- Wooden clothes pegs
- Coloured felt
- Scissors
- Glue stick and clear gum glue
- Characters for the castle: e.g. toy dinosaurs, lego characters, small toy dolls, plastic farm animals

### Instructions/method:

1. Ask the children, with the help of a parent or caregiver, to cut out the castle template and fold on the dotted lines. Make sure the doors are cut only to a certain point on each side to create a hinge
2. Now comes the fun part, decorating the castle. Is it dark and scary castle or a bright and colourful one?
3. Encourage children to use their imagination to 'build' a castle they would like to see
4. The wooden pegs, when covered in felt and wool can make little people, animals or funny creatures that inhabit the castle
5. This activity is a great way for children to extend the story and personalise the own castle, encouraging play and storytelling beyond the book.

### Extension Activities:

- Created a hand printed castle! Use non-toxic acrylic paint to create palm print that forms the basic structure of a castle. Once dry the palm print becomes a castle with the addition of free drawing and craft materials
- Whilst the weather is still warm head down to the beach and build your own sandcastle. Encourage the hunt for objects such as sticks and shells to decorate the castle. Remember to point out the shapes you can see in nature
- Play the 'I Spy' game featuring shapes, T is for triangle! This is a fun way to find shapes in everyday life that may not be as easy to find
- Memory boards are another way to replicate the look-and-find concept. Lay out an assortment of objects on the floor, they could be themed or completely random. Lay a large tea towel or sheet over the objects and carefully take one object away. Reveal the new layout and which item is missing. Such a fun game of concentration and investigation!



## 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 -

- **The Tiny King** by Taro Miura
- **The Worst Princess** by Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvy
- **The Book With a Hole** by Hervé Tullet

## 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.....)!*

## Castle Template:

- Print onto card
- Colour and decorate
- Cut around shape and fold along dotted line.
- Secure ends with tape

