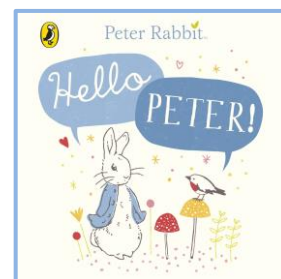




Hello Peter!

By *Beatrix Potter*

Hello Peter! is a delightful rhyming board book just the right size for little hands. Join Peter on his adventures and see how he spends his day. Chunky, sturdy pages with contemporary colourful illustrations make Hello Peter the perfect introduction to Beatrix Potter's most famous bunny.



Key Message for Parents

The Best Learning Happens in Nurturing Relationships

Babies brains best develop when they have warm and caring relationships with the adults who care for them. Research tells us that over 1 million neural connections are formed every second in a baby's brain so creating positive learning environments will support optimal brain development. Spending time with your baby talking, playing, singing and reading helps develop a warm and nurturing relationship. Some ideas to share with parents are:

- Cuddle up and share a book together,
- Talk to your baby about what is happening around them. Describe colours and shapes,
- Sing songs face to face.

Early Years Learning Framework

Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

A strong sense of wellbeing provides children with confidence and they are more likely to learn. We can help young children develop a strong sense of wellbeing by:

- Providing warm trusting relationships. Welcoming families to your sessions, getting to know their names, asking about their day helps to build a strong and warm relationship,
- Providing safe, calm and predictable environments. Having a well set out space to run your session in and some basic routines in your session will give parents and babies a sense of ease and comfort,
- Responding to baby's needs, read your baby's cues and respond accordingly.

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 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.

Welcome song - Come Along

Come along and sing with me, sing with me

Come along and sing with me, It's time for story time

Repeat and replace 'sing' with bounce, rock, clap etc.

Come along and bounce with me, bounce with me, bounce with me

Come along and bounce with me, it's time for story time

Songs

Little Peter Rabbit

Little Peter Rabbit has a fly upon his nose.

Little Peter Rabbit has a fly upon his nose.

*Little Peter Rabbit has a fly upon his nose,
and he flipped it and flopped it 'til it flew away!*

Repeat with other body parts- ear, arm, leg, toe

Hop along with me

Hop, hop, hop along (bounce baby on lap)

Or bounce on someone's knee

Higher, higher, higher, higher (lift baby into the air)

Bunny hop with me

Encourage parents to sing facing their baby so that baby can watch their mouth move as they sing and talk – this helps babies learn to speak themselves.





Before Reading

Set up your story time area and make it comfortable and inviting for parents. Some ideas include:

- put cushions on the floor,
- have rugs to lay babies on, clear plenty of space to move around in plus have a dedicated place to park prams,
- Have all your props and books ready and easy to access.

This preparation will help set up a successful story time session.

As parents arrive:

- welcome them and their baby,
- Ask baby's name and wave hello.

Creating a warm and welcoming environment will help parents relax and feel comfortable which will give them the confidence to join in the session.

Ideally have enough copies of the book to hand out to everyone. Encourage parents to sit with their baby in their lap and hold the book about 20 cm from baby's face. Introduce the book by showing the cover and reading the title.

During Reading

Remind parents that they are their child's first and best teacher and during reading a book their baby is learning a lot from them. Babies learn how to hold the book and turn the pages by watching their parent model this action.

- Encourage parents to use their finger to glide under the words as they read. This helps develop print awareness- that the words on the pages mean something.
- Suggest that parents follow Peter's hops (dotted lines) with their finger and point out where Peter is on each page.
- Encourage lots of cuddles as you read the last page.



After Reading

Re read the book. Repetition supports brain development. Repeating information strengthens brain connections hence allowing the information to be retained or learnt. Read the story a second time and talk about the other things that are happening in the illustrations. Talk about the:

- colours on each page – "Let's find everything that is blue on this page",
- words, Peter's jacket, flowers etc. Look for the other animals- bee, bird, butterfly- oh all these words start with B. The illustrations are an important part of the story and can tell the reader so much.



Activity time

Fun with Scarves

Playing with scarves is a wonderful sensory activity for babies. A simple scarf can be used in a variety of games to help with a baby's development plus its lots of fun. You can use sheer fabric or solid.

What you need:

- Scarves
- Tissue box/empty wipes box



What to do:

1. Push the scarves inside the box leaving a corner of the scarf poking out.
2. Place the box in front of baby.
3. Encourage baby to pull a scarf out by demonstrating or verbally telling them.
4. Alternatively do a wait and see approach- baby's curiosity will lead them to start touching and pulling the scarves out.

This activity is great for developing fine motor skills.

More Activities

Peek a boo

Play peek-a-boo with scarves. Peek a boo games are great for developing object permanence- the knowledge that objects still exist even when they can't be seen.

What you need

- Scarf or any lightweight piece of material

What to do:

Peek a Boo is a classic game babies love to play.

1. Hold the scarf over your face so baby can't see you.
2. Remove the scarf and sing "Peek a Boo".
3. Hide your face again and try talking to your baby while your face is covered- where are you, I can't see you. Reveal again with a peek a boo!



Image: rhythmexpress.wordpress.com/tag/peekaboo-song/

Following the scarf

Lay your baby on their back so they can look up at the scarf. Dangle the scarf over baby's face. Move it to the left, right, up and down. Watch your baby's eyes follow the scarf, allow time for them to focus on the scarf. Talk about what you are doing, describe the scarf- 'the scarf is moving up', 'the blue scarf is moving to the right'.

This activity will help develop your baby's eye tracking and coordination.



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.

Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

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

- **Nest** by Jorey Hurley
- **Hey Mum, I Love You** by Corrine Fenton
- **Baby Dance** by Katrina Germein and Doris Chang
- **Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes** by Mem Fox and Helen Oxenbury

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.....)!

