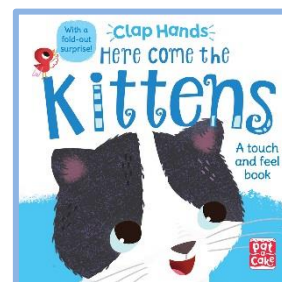




Here Come the Kittens *Illustrated by Hilli Kushnir*

Meet the kittens and clap your hands in this interactive touch and feel board book. The simple repetitive text will engage babies and they will delight in clapping along and stroking the furry kittens. Full of happy, playful and cute kittens with lots of textures to feel on each page and ending with a special fold out surprise, *Here Come the Kittens* is certainly worth a round of applause!



Key Message for Parents | Children are born ready to learn

The brain begins to develop before birth and continues into adulthood. Babies need plenty of sensory, social and nurturing experiences to help the brain to develop strong connections. Repeated positive experiences help to develop a story foundation in the baby's brain.

Practitioners of Early Childhood Programs can role model positive experiences for families by:

- Creating a warm and welcoming space – have cushions for families to sit on, have a space for prams, greet and welcome families on arrival
- Providing a range of sensory activities and resources that engage and are appropriate for babies. Ideas include; scarves and musical shaker, bubbles and puppets
- Singing lots of songs with simple actions and hand gestures. Have song words and action cards ready for families who are not familiar with the words
- Play games such as peek-a-boo.

Learning Outcomes | Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

Babies need to feel safe, secure and supported. Creating a nurturing and loving environment is the best way for babies learn. We can help babies to develop a strong sense of identity by:

- Spending time with families at Storytime, ensure they feel welcome and connected to the space. It is beneficial to spend time getting to know them and their baby
- Spending time interacting and chatting with babies at your session. Pause and listen to baby's cooing and babbling – respond to their attempts as they are learning about language and communication
- Encourage lots of contact between parent/carer and baby – plenty of cuddling and singing songs with hand actions.

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

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au     



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

Parent/ carers can join babies' hands together to move them as you sing

Soft Kitty

Soft kitty, warm kitty

Little ball of fur

Happy kitty, sleepy kitty

Purr, purr, purr



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.



PLAY PROP

Use a scarf or piece of material

ACTION TIP:

Start the rhyme hiding baby's face with the scarf then move it away as you say "peek-a-boo!"

If baby doesn't like the scarf on their face try covering your face instead. Babies will still love the peek-a-boo element of the song

Peek a boo

Peek a boo Peek a boo

Who's that hiding there

Peek a boo peek a boo

It's (insert baby's name) hiding there



Before Reading

This book has sensory components so if possible have multiple copies available for each adult/baby. Introduce the book and outline how parents can involve their baby in the story. "Today we are reading a book about kittens which has an interesting touch and feel element on each double page. Babies learn by touching and feeling new objects, so let's spend time exploring together. Encourage families to sit with their baby in their lap, holding the book in front - **you can role model this with a soft toy.**

During Reading

Give hints and tips to your families as you read, role model and explain. Tell parents and carers they can help to move their baby's fingers over the textured sections of the book as you read together.

Explain that by feeling the different textures while hearing the words helps babies develop the print/sound association and this is important for language development. Spend time touching and feeling the textures on each page. Make connections between the actions in the book and real life by pointing out the kitten's nose and then gently touch your baby's nose. Help your baby clap hands when prompted by the story.

After Reading

You can spend some time to explore the pop out section that is found at the end of this book. Talk to your baby while looking at the kittens. Match them and count them, talk about what they are doing - playing with a ball, licking paws, playing in a box sitting or standing. Open and close the pop out section saying *hello kittens* as you open and *goodbye kittens* as you close the book.

You might like to go back through the book and notice the little red bird of each page. Re-read the story pointing out the bird and after a few pages encourage baby to find the bird themselves.

Activity time

Sensory Board

Babies are born ready to learn and they discover the world around them largely through their sense of touch. Create a baby-safe sensory board with different textures to touch and feel.

This activity would need to be prepared prior to your session so that sensory boards are dry and safe for babies to explore.

What you need:

- Heavy cardboard or an empty box lid
- Hot glue gun
- Various textured items such as bubble wrap, straws, sponge, feathers, ribbon, rock, wood, felt, paper, card and fabrics.

What to do:

- Hot glue each item onto the cardboard
- Spread the different textures around the board
- Once dry place in front of baby at tummy time
- Talk to your baby about each item as they feel it- describing the texture, for example, smooth ribbon, furry felt, bumpy bubble wrap.

SAFETY NOTE: Parent/Carer supervision is required at all times.



Image source: laughingkidslearn.com



Extension Ideas:

Sing some clapping songs

Clap, clap, clap your hands

Clap your tiny hands

Clap, clap, clap your hands

Clap your tiny hands



Additional verses can include:

- Stomp, stomp, stomp your feet ... (and so on).
- Pat, pat, pat your head ... (and so on).
- Rub, rub, rub your tummy ... (and so on).

Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHn5YK-Y32Q> for more inspiration.

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:

- **Where is Spot?** by Eric Hill
- **Row, Row, Row Your Boat** by Matt Shanks
- **Playtime Peekaboo** by DK

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.....)!