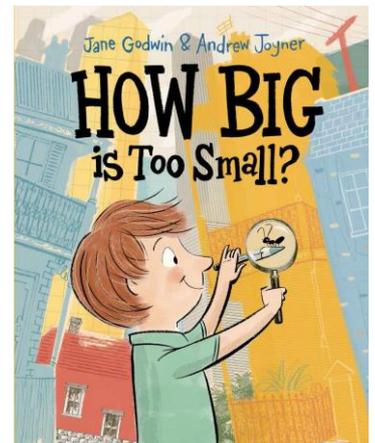


How Big Is Too Small?

by Jane Godwin and Andrew Joyner

Theme: Size (July 2015)

'Why do things look smaller from above?' Sam wonders from his rooftop. Sam questions his own size after his older bigger brother won't let him play ball because he is "too small". Andrew Joyner's lively illustrations bring this story to life and Jane Godwin's poetic prose makes How Big Is Too Small a wonderfully enjoyable read.



Key Message for Parents

Children Learn from Being Engaged and Doing

The most powerful way a young child learns is through play. Make time in your day for play, because through playing together you are learning together.

"Play more than any other activity promotes healthy development of children. All learning (emotional, social, motor and cognitive) is accelerated by play." (Perry et al., 2000)

Learning Outcomes

Outcome 2: Children Are Connected and Contribute to Their World

We can help children become confident and involved learners by:

- Providing learning opportunities which are open ended and begin with a child's own knowledge
- Giving children an opportunity to contribute their ideas at discussion time
- Modelling excellent listening skills and language skills

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

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au



LEARNING TIME

Featured Stories Program



Welcome

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and remind them 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/Movement Game

Ask children to stand up for this song and practice some actions before you sing

- Can you make yourself really small like a seed? (Curl down into a ball)
- Can you make yourself really tall? Like a tree? (Stretch up tall and reach up high)

Sing this song to the tune of *Incy Wincy Spider* - from www.everthingpreschool.com

Once a Little Apple Seed

Once a little apple seed was planted in the ground (Hold out hand, kneeling on the ground)

Down came rain, falling all around. (Fingers moving like the rain.)

Out came the sun as bright as it could be

And that little seed

It grew up to be a great big apple tree! (Stand up and stretch out hands tall)

Another wonderful song which is very relevant for this month's theme is "That's about the size of it" The link to this song is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gd9Bd4nX9Q>



Before Reading

Make sure everyone is comfortable, sitting on bottoms, hands in laps, eyes ready to look and ears ready to listen. Before reading this story, show the children a ruler or a measuring tape and ask if they know what it is for. Describe what the ruler looks like, “There are numbers on the top” and “It is a rectangle”. Demonstrate how it is used. You could begin by measuring the book! Have a smaller book and a bigger book to compare sizes. Children could make predictions about how big a book will be, use the ruler to see if their guess was right!

In this story Sam explores the concept of size and wonders, “How big is too small?” I wonder whether we will find out?

During Reading

From Andrew Joyner’s playful and clever illustrations we can learn a lot about the central character, Sam. Take time to share the illustrations with the children, looking closely, for example at the contents of Sam’s room. Different perspectives also add visual interest and enhance the story’s focus and concept.

Jane Godwin’s rhythmic text captures Sam’s sense of wonder and curiosity. As Sam poses his questions and thoughts about the world around him, ask your listeners what their thoughts about size are too.

After Reading

What is the message of the story? That size doesn’t matter – we are all the size we are meant to be! Can the children think of someone who is taller than them, or someone who is smaller than them?

You might like to think of some objects, and then order them by size. A felt board would be handy for this exercise if you have one, or have a selection of soft toys and as a group, order them from smallest to biggest.

Ask the children if they know some different words for ‘small’ and ‘big’. Ask them to share some words and see what they suggest. Words for ‘little’ might include: tiny, little, weeny, petite, mini, baby, midget, etc. Words for ‘big’ might include: huge, large, enormous, giant, greater, etc. Describing words are great for building pre-literacy skills.



Activity Time: Rainbow

What you need:

- 5 or 6 different coloured pipe cleaners cut into different lengths for each child
- Plasticine or play dough
- Cotton wool
- A small meat tray or small cardboard boxes cut in half

How to:

1. Roll out a long “sausage” of dough or plasticine. Press it onto the tray.
2. Talk with your child/ren about the length of the pipe cleaners and put them in order from shortest to longest. Bend them into curved shapes.
3. The pipe cleaners are poked into the dough smallest to biggest.
4. Finish by decorating with cotton wool, which becomes the clouds at the base of each end of the rainbow.

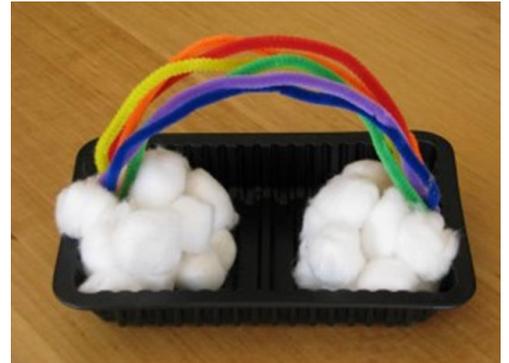


Image from www.learningforkids.com

Extension ideas

- Measure objects using pieces of string or how many Lego/Duplo bricks
- Make your own measuring tape using strips of paper
- Trace children’s silhouettes and colour
- Have a measuring chart on the wall and before the children go, record their measurement
- Make your own **Big and Small** book by cutting out pictures from a magazine and sticking them in

LEARNING TIME

Featured Stories Program



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:

- **You Are Not Small** by Anna Kang and Christopher Weyant
- **One Is a Snail, Ten Is A Crab** by April Pulley Sayre, Jeff Sayre and Randy Cecil
- **Digger Dog** by William Bee and Cecilia Johansson

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the last line rather than '*library friends*' 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.....)

