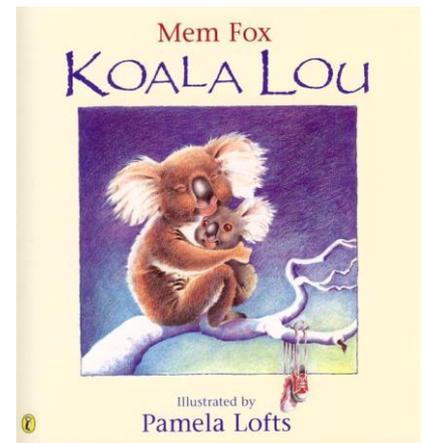


## *Koala Lou* by Mem Fox

**Theme: Love (March 2015)**



Koala Lou enters the Bush Olympics in an effort to win her mother's attention and to hear her mother say "Koala Lou, I do love you!" Set in the Australian bush and full of colorful characters, this heartfelt story is beautifully brought to life through Pamela Lofts vibrant and lively illustrations.

### Key Message for Parents

#### The Best Learning Happens In Nurturing Relationships

- Children have better outcomes when they feel loved, secure and supported
- Story time is a shared experience and an ideal way to nurture your relationship with your child
- Recognize and celebrate your child's individuality and make time to play, sing and just be together.

### Learning Outcomes

#### Outcome Four: Children are Confidant and Involved Learners

Educators can promote this by:

- Ensuring that children have a range of age appropriate open ended activities which promote exploration and learning
- Celebrating and sharing all achievements, big and small.
- Providing learning experiences which are open ended and begin with a child's own knowledge

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

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

#### Head Shoulders Knees and Toes

*Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes  
Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes  
And eyes and ears and mouth and nose  
Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes!*

You might like to increase or decrease the speed of the song to challenge the children!

### Before Reading

Are we all sitting hands in laps, eyes this way, ready to listen! Introduce the book by first looking at the image on the cover. What animals can the children see? What are they doing? They are cuddling! Do you like to cuddle your mummy, daddy or baby sister or brother? The baby koala's name is Koala Lou. Can the children say it too?

Let's find out a bit more about Koala Lou - introduce the title; Koala Lou written by Mem Fox and illustrated by Pamela Lofts.

### During Reading

Draw the children's attention to the illustrations and the emotions that are depicted, as they are pertinent to the story. How do they think Koala Lou is feeling in this picture? Does she look happy, scared or sad? Encourage the children to predict what will happen at the Olympics – who thinks Koala Lou will win?





### After Reading

Can you think of any moments when you have felt proud, sad, scared? Share ideas and reflections with the group remembering to encourage each child to contribute. To manage this discussion time effectively, it is sometimes useful to have a “Talking Stone” or object. Whoever is holding the object or stone is talking and the others are listening. It is a very useful way of teaching active listening.

Discuss the importance of “having a go” and how winning is not really as important. What sort of games do they enjoy at home?

### Activity Time: Climbing Koalas

What you need:

- Scissors
- PVA glue
- Template of koalas
- A few branches or sticks
- Cardboard rolls

#### How to:

Print and give children koala print outs to colour. Alternatively they might like to draw and cut out their own koalas.

Either stick the koalas onto found branches or use cardboard rolls and insert the branches and leaves inside as shown in the photo.

If you have a large branch the koalas could be all glued on to create a large group display piece for the library!



### Extension ideas

Host a Mini Bush Olympics! Set up a small obstacle course where children are challenged at different stations to

- Jump 3 times like a kangaroo!
- Wriggle under a chair and hide like a wombat!
- Slide through a tunnel like a snake
- Pretend to climb a tree like a koala...

You might also like to find out more about koalas by visiting [www.thekoala.com](http://www.thekoala.com)



### 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:

- **The Long Way Home** by Emily Rodda
- **Stars** by Mary Lyn Ray
- **Annie To The Rescue** by Deborah Niland

### 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.....)*