

Play is how children learn and grow.

You are your child's first teacher and favourite toy.

READ

*Open this book
And travel your way
All through the year
And treasure each day.*

BEFORE READING:

Spend time talking about the cover of the book:

- Share the names of the author and illustrator.
- Explain what the author and illustrator do.
- Ask "What is a year?"

This will give you a great insight into children's understanding of concepts such as time and seasons. This can then lead to further discussions, activities and learning.

DURING READING:

Each double page spread in this delightful book shares one month of the year through the eyes of an Australian child.

You can read this book in its entirety but you can also dip in and out according to the time of year.

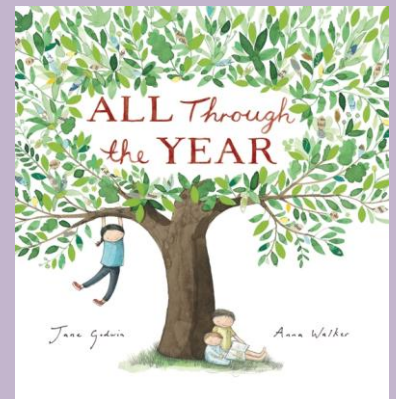
There is a lot to see and talk about on each page so spend time looking at the changes in the pictures and letting children share their own personal stories.

AFTER READING:

Ideas for discussion:

- What is your favourite month and why?
- What is your favourite season and why?

Find out when everyone in your family/group/class have their birthday. Record it on a chart showing the months of the year.



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SING

This book explores a year in Australia. Sing some songs that are uniquely Australian:

- *Kookaburra Sits in the Old Gum Tree*
- *Waltzing Matilda*
- *Give Me a Home Among the Gum Trees*
- *Advance Australia Fair*
- *I Am, You Are, We Are Australian*

PLAY

When you are having fun with your child you are helping develop a strong bond between the two of you.

Children that have a strong attachment with a loved one feel happy and confident.

Children don't need lots of expensive toys to have fun or to learn.

Try turning everyday routines into playful learning moments.

- Bath time is a great opportunity to learn about ideas like wet and dry, empty and full. Your kitchen is full of great instant bath toys. Plastic is best for babies; cups, bowls, ladles, jugs and funnels will provide hours of bath time fun.
- Collecting the mail provides many great opportunities to learn and play. When you walk to the letter box talk about the weather, what colour is the sky, is the wind blowing, and is the sun out? What surprises are in the letterbox today - count the envelopes, read the names and addresses and talk about the stamps.

CREATE

Create your own leafy tree collage.

Visit www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au for a free All Through The Year Activity Time printable template.