

READ

Children need to have lots and lots of experiences with books before they can learn how to read. In fact, some experts believe that children need to have heard 1000 stories to learn all about how books work first.

Even before they can speak, you can still talk to children about the parts of a book and how they work.

Spend some time exploring the cover of the book together. Talk about how it feels, look at the pictures and the words and talk about what the book might be about.

SING

Sing *Little Peter Rabbit had a fly upon his nose...*
You could change the name *Peter Rabbit* to *Squish Rabbit*.

Opposites

Squish was quiet but he could be loud when he needed to be. You can introduce simple opposites to little ones through music.

When you are singing or playing with musical instruments try:

- Loud and quiet
- Fast and slow
- High and low
- Start and stop

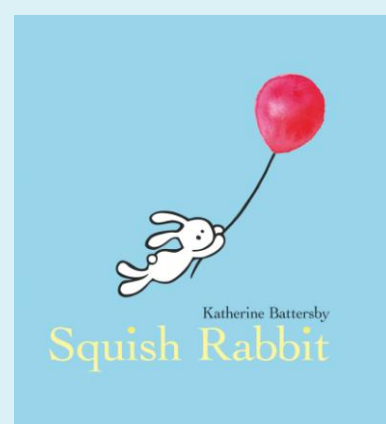
Very young children won't yet understand the meaning of opposite but they will have fun exploring them!

PLAY

Balloon Fun

Playing with balloons is not only fun but it is great for promoting active play, social interaction, balance, fine motor strength and hand-eye coordination.

For very young children you can hang a balloon somewhere that they have to reach to touch it. Encourage them to tap it and delight in making it move.



Squish Rabbit
was featured in
April 2012
as part of our
SELF ESTEEM
Theme.

Notes

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Play helps children learn about their world. It develops creativity, imagination and the chance to practice lots of skills that children need.

There are various stages of play that children go through:

- **Solitary Play** is when children share the same space but play alone
- **Parallel Play** is when children may be playing near each other with the same toys but they are not interacting.
- **Associative Play** is when two or more children are playing and interacting but are not working together to create something.
- **Cooperative Play** involves two or more children playing with the same thing at the same time with the same end goal.

You can help your child by attending a library story time session or play group.

If you are a library, play group or child care centre – set up activities that allow one or two children to play alongside each other.

In the story, Squish Rabbit wanted a friend.
Give children a soft toy or baby doll to care for.

CREATE

Squish Rabbit Friends

Make some Squish Rabbit paper chains.

- Fold a piece of paper in half
- Draw an outline of a simple rabbit, making sure that one arm and one leg reach all the way to the fold of the paper.
- Cut around the rabbit and when you open it up you will have two rabbits.
- Help the children decorate their rabbit friends.
- Depending on the age of the children, you may want to provide a variety of collage materials for them to use.
- Katherine Battersby used collage when creating the illustrations for the book.

More Books About Friendship and Self Esteem

Annie to the Rescue by Deborah Niland

Hush Hush, Kiss Kiss and Little

Humpty by Margaret Wild

The Family Book by Todd Parr

Farm Babies by Rod Campbell

Useful websites:

For printable activities:

www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au

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