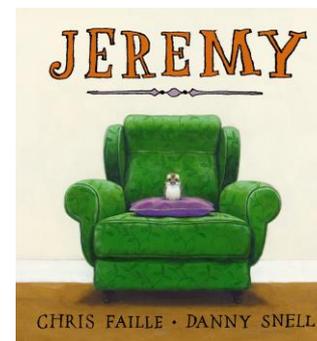


Jeremy by Chris Faille and Danny Snell

Theme: Our Favourites

November 2014

A little baby Kookaburra falls out of his nest and is brought home by the family cat when he is only a few days old. The family names him Jeremy. They feed and care for him, and he grows bigger and stronger until the time comes to say goodbye.



Key Message For Parents: Children Learn through being Engaged and Doing

We can help children learn in an engaged and active way by:

- Playing outdoors together in an unstructured way to learn problem solving skills
- Spending time together in different environments: parks, beach, backyard, playgrounds and exploring the features of these surroundings
- Reading fiction and non-fiction books about people, plants and animals that are familiar and unfamiliar, talking about the topics together and asking questions

Learning Outcome 4: Children are Confident and Involved Learners

We can help children be confident and involved learners by:

- Providing sensory and exploratory experiences with natural materials and objects
- Trying new ideas, asking questions, being curious and encouraging problem solving
- Planning learning environments with appropriate levels of challenge, where children can explore, experiment, construct and take risks

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.

Sing

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.

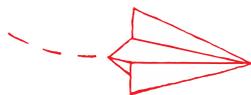
Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

And welcome to you!



Song

Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree

Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree
Merry, merry king of the bush is he
Laugh, Kookaburra laugh,
Kookaburra what a life you lead!

Before Reading

The children may or may not be familiar with Australian native birds such as the Kookaburra. You could explore:

- the Kookaburra song (lyrics above) and show some pictures of Kookaburras
- making the Kookaburra call all together, which is a lot of fun
- showing some footage of a Kookaburra or give families some website links so that they can further explore at home (see Extension Activities)
- if you have any hand puppets of birds, you can talk together about features of birds such as a beak, eyes, feathers, wings and feet
- posing questions like: 'I wonder where birds live?' 'Does anyone have any ideas about what birds might eat?'

Show the picture of Jeremy on the front cover of the book. Say 'This bird isn't in a tree! He isn't outside in the garden. He is in a lounge chair! I wonder why he is sitting there? Let's turn the page and find out...'

During Reading

The pictures help to give life to this story. Each of the pages provides information about what is happening to Jeremy and how he is growing. The first pictures show how small he is compared to the cat, then a teddy bear. The pictures show his stages of growth, and what he eats.

You can use the pictures to help explain what the story is about. You can go back and look again at the pictures of Jeremy when you are finished, and look at how he has grown. You can also point out the end pages, which include many facts about Kookaburras.

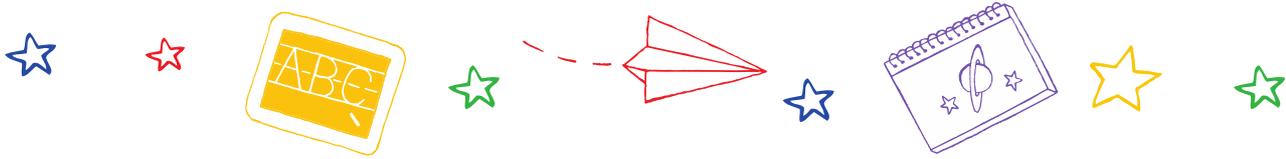
After Reading

Talk about the sequence of the story. What happened to Jeremy at the start of the book? The children may not know that Jeremy was born from an egg in a nest in the palm tree. Sometimes baby birds fall out of nests.

Jeremy was brought inside by the cat and was very small. Talk about Jeremy's life cycle from there and continue asking the children questions specifically about the story such as:

- How were his needs met for food, shelter, comfort?
- How did Jeremy grow?
- What happened at the end of the story?

(Continued over page)



After Reading (continued)

Other questions could be based on their response to, or thoughts/feelings about the book, such as:

- How did it make you feel?
- If Jeremy was found at your home, would you like to look after him?
- Would you like to let Jeremy go?

Posing questions helps children to think more deeply about the story and engage with the feelings and ideas within it. You may not have time to ask many questions, however role modelling the art of questioning may help your children and families think about asking questions when they are reading a story together and this is an important skill to encourage.

Song

Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree

Kookaburra fell from the old palm tree

Now he's as happy as he can be

Fly, kookaburra

Fly, kookaburra

Now you can be free!

Activity Time

Make a bird feeder

You will need:

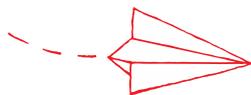
- A clean milk carton or juice container
- Scissors
- Paint if available
- Some bird seed

What to do:

- Collect some milk cartons or juice containers.
- Clean them well with soapy water.
- Think together about how to make a bird feeder.
- What kind of shape do you need to cut so that a bird could feed from the container?
- Get adult assistance to cut a shape out of the container so that the bird can feed from it.
- If you wish, decorate your bird feeder with paint or other materials.
- Fill the base of the container with bird seed.
- Place your bird feeder outside in your garden.

Now watch to see if the birds come along to feed!





Extension activities

Go for a walk, visit a park, a playground, a beach, your backyard or neighbourhood. Talk about the features of your environment: the wind, the clouds, the trees, the plants, animals and birds. Pose questions and think about what you know and what you would like to know about any birds or animals that you see. How can we find out the answers to our questions?

Other versions of the Kookaburra song include:

Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree
Eating all the gum drops he can see
Stop, Kookaburra. Stop!
Kookaburra leave some there for me!

Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree
Merry, merry, merry little bird is he
Sing, Kookaburra Sing!
Kookaburra sing your song for me!

Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree
Counting all the monkeys he can see
Stop, Kookaburra Stop!
Kookaburra that's not a monkey that's me!

Don Spencer song, footage and facts about Kookaburras are here:

<http://splash.abc.net.au/media/-/m/104386/a-song-about-the-kookaburra-s-call>

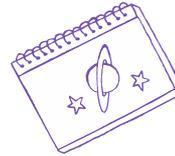
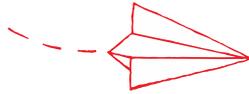
<http://splash.abc.net.au/media/-/m/155300/observing-a-kookaburra>

Bird Life cycle

Talk about the life cycle of a bird and show pictures of the stages.

Divide a large circle into three parts and draw the life cycle: egg, chick, bird

Display your bird lifecycles. You can also write simple facts on cards, taken from the end pages of Jeremy, and display these with pictures of Kookaburras.



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:

- Ten Blue Wrens by Elizabeth Honey
- Emus Under the Bed by Leann J Edwards
- Bea by Christine Sharp
- One Woolly Wombat by Kerry Argent

Goodbye Song

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.....)!

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.