

Play is the most powerful way babies and toddlers learn.

Every time you play, sing or read with babies and toddlers they are learning about language.

The following activities have been designed for early childhood professionals to use as a starting point for developing children's early literacy skills through play.

Please feel free to adapt them for the home and with children of different ages.

Don't forget to record your own ideas, activities that worked really well, relevant songs and rhymes in the Notes section opposite.

Visit our website www.thelittlebigbookclub.com for more fun printable activities based on this book.

Engaging with Language and Literacy

Babies and toddlers can learn about the world from picture books. Talking about the pictures and saying the name of what is in the picture helps very young children learn what things are called.

Acting out the story before reading it is one way of helping children's comprehension of the story.

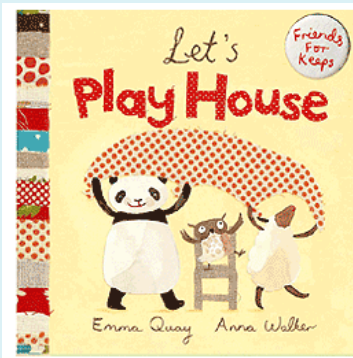
- You will need another adult to help you.
- Make sure you have all your props ready.
- Use the words from the story, for example, "Let's play house", "Put that chair over there", "Catch the other end of the blanket", while you make a house with your adult friend.
- Once you have created the house encourage the children to say "Knock, knock. Can I come in?"
- When you are all inside your house you can start to read the story.
- Your cosy house will be a wonderful place for singing some familiar songs with the little ones. Try:
 - Who's that tapping at my window?
Who's that knocking at my door?
It's (name)..... tapping at my window,
It's (name)..... knocking at my door.

Discovering Sensory Play

Letting children select their own materials for collages gives them the opportunity to express their own preferences.

Encouraging them to discuss how the materials feel helps develop vocabulary.

Using glue and brushes helps to develop fine motor coordination.



Let's Play House

Emma Quay and Anna Walker Walker

Notes

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Sensory Collage

Create a sensory collage with the children.

- Collect a variety of materials for the children to use, for example, material scraps, wool, tissue paper, cellophane, cotton wool etc...
- Try to collect as many different textures as possible, you can even send a note home asking parents for donations.
- Give the children lots of time to explore the different materials, talk to them about each one, for example, what it feels like, its colour, pattern etc...
- Draw a house on a large piece of paper and provide the children with glue and brushes so they can create a house collage with the materials.

Exploring Our World

**“Imagination is more important than knowledge...”
Albert Einstein**

Let's Play House

Provide the children with different opportunities for make believe play.

- Dolls house furniture and people
- Outside cubby house with dress ups and tea sets
- Baby dolls, dolls clothes and prams
- A blanket over two chairs

Children learn about being kind to others by watching those around them. Creating imaginative play opportunities gives you the chance to model appropriate words and actions.

It also gives little children the chance to feel confident about their own emerging feelings.

Enjoying Music and Movement

Jellyfish

- Provide each child with a small cushion or piece of material and let them pretend to be jellyfish.
- Sing the *Jellyfish* counting song with the children.
 - Show them how to count down with their fingers while you are singing it.
 - Five jellyfish, five jellyfish,
Five jellyfish sitting on a rock
One fell off...blob

Four jellyfish, four jellyfish,
Etc...

More Books By Emma

Quay and Anna Walker:

Friends For Keeps Series:

Jump Over the Puddle

Yummy Ice Cream

By Anna Walker:

I Love To Dance

I Love To Sing

I Love Christmas

I Love Holidays

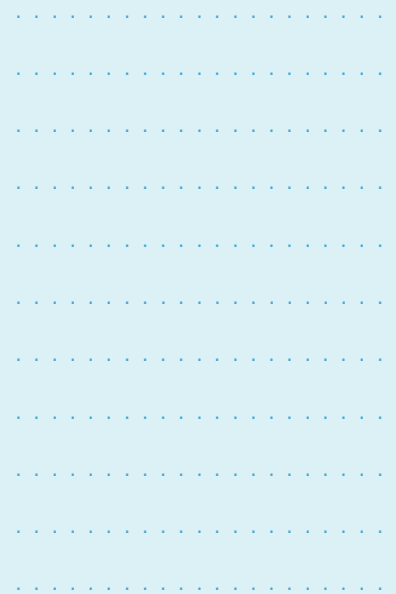
I Love Birthdays

I Love My Mum/Dad

Useful websites:

For printable activities:

www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au





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