Play is the most powerful way young children learn.

Every time you play, sing or read to young children they are learning about language.

By sharing this book and play activities with them they will have the opportunity to:

- Become aware of families through stories, dramatic play and art.
- Experience writing as a way of sharing their ideas.
- Investigate the world around them.

We hope these activities will provide you with a starting point for fun play with young children.

Engaging With Language and Literacy

Encourage children to participate in purposeful writing as they play.

- Ask the children what they would take with them if they were going on a sleepover.
- Draw an outline of a suitcase on a piece of paper and have the children draw the things that they would take with them.
- Help the children with their early writing experiences. Encourage them to use invented writing or the sounds they can hear in the words to label their pictures.
- Give the children the opportunity to share their ideas with other children so they begin to understand that writing is a way of communicating their ideas.

My Family Book

- Help the children to make a book about their family. Staple four pages together. Ask the children to name four people in their family, encourage them to include grandparents if appropriate. Write one person on each page, eg, My Grandpa or This is my sister.
- The children can then trace over your writing or copy underneath and then illustrate each page.

For more book suggestions, tip sheets, nursery rhymes, songs and fun things to make and do please visit: thelittlebigbookclub.com.au
Max Meets A Monster
by Tracey Hawkins and Chantal Steward

Enjoying Musical and Dramatic Play

Shadow Dances
- Group the children in pairs so that each child is facing one another.
- Choose one child to move his or her hands slowly.
- The other child is the shadow and has to copy the movements.
- Have the children reverse roles.

Feelings
- Read the story using a lot of expression. Discuss with the children about how you can make your voice sound excited, happy etc.
- Talk to the children using different voices and facial expressions.
- Can they guess how you are feeling?
- Sing the song “If You’re Happy and You Know It”.
- Make a Feelings Book
- Give the children mirrors and ask them to make different faces, eg, a happy face, a frightened face etc…
- Take their photographs and use them to make a book. Ask the children what makes them happy, sad, excited etc… Use their words for the text of the book.

Stories can help children understand their feelings.

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Grandparents

Grandparents are Great Book

- Have the children write or draw about the special things they love about their grandparents.
  This can be made into a book to take home to give to their grandparents.
- If any children do not have grandparents they can make a book about another special person.

Grandparent Puppet

- The children can make a grandparent puppet by stuffing the toe of a stocking with cotton wool.
- Draw facial features on cardboard and stick or stitch on.
- Use wool for hair.

Sounds

- Ask the children to close their eyes and listen.
  Make a list of things they can hear.
- Play listening games with the children.

Guess This Sound

While the children have their eyes closed make a sound and see if they can guess what it is.
Try: tearing paper, doing up a zip, clapping your hands etc…

Match the instrument

Have the children sitting in a circle with a variety of musical instruments in the middle.
Ask the children to close their eyes and play one of the instruments.
Can the children guess which instrument was played?

To make this game more challenging play two or three instruments and see if the children can repeat
Notes List any other books, rhymes or activities the children have enjoyed.

Other books to try:

*Potato People* by Pamela Allen

*Grandpa and Thomas* by Pamela Allen

*Grandpa & Thomas and the Green Umbrella* by Pamela Allen

*Brian Banana Duck Sunshine Yellow* by Christopher McKimmie

Rhymes:

**If You’re Happy and You Know It**
If you’re happy and you know it
Clap your hands
If you’re happy and you know it
Clap your hands
If you’re happy and you know it
And you really want to show it
If you’re happy and you know it
Clap you’re hands.

If you’re sad and you know it
Say boo hoo etc…

If you’re angry and you know it
Stamp you’re feet etc…

Ask the children to make actions or sounds for other feelings.

**I’m Not Afraid**
I’m not afraid of the clapping monster
I’m not afraid at all.
I’m not afraid of the clapping monster
I’m not afraid at all.
And it goes clap clap
And it goes clap clap
And it goes clap clap clap clap

I’m not afraid of the stamping monster
etc…

I’m not afraid of the jumping monster
etc…

Make up your own monsters to sing about.

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