

Play is the most powerful way young children learn.

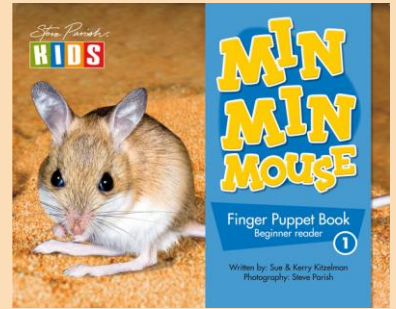
- Every time you play, sing or read with young children they are learning about language.
- The following activities have been designed for early childhood professionals to use as a starting point for developing children's early literacy skills through play.
- Please feel free to adapt them for the home 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.au for more fun printable activities based on this book.

Engaging with Language and Literacy

Always watch where you are going. Otherwise, you may step on a piece of the Forest that was left out by mistake.

Winnie the Pooh

- Talk about the cover of the book. Do the children know what animal is on the front cover? What noise do they think it would make?
- Prior to reading the story you may like to construct the finger puppet to help tell the story.
The back pages of the book have some helpful hints about reading and using the finger puppet.
- For younger children you could read the text on the right hand page, which provides a simple, shorter version of the story. For older children you could read all of the text.
- The Steve Parish website has a printable version of the same finger puppet as in the back of the book. You may like to print a copy for children to have their own Min Min.
www.steveparish.com.au/finger-puppet-books
- Alternatively the children can make finger puppets from a semi circle of card, rolled into a small cone shape. Don't forget to add eyes, ears and a long tail.
- Encourage the children to retell some of Min Min adventures using their own finger puppets. Write down their ideas and make your own book. The children can help by illustrating the book.
- Read some of Steve Parish's other storybooks or stories featuring Australian animals like *Possum Magic* and *Wombat Divine*.
- Set up a display of books and pictures featuring Australian animals for the children to look at, can they find any mice that look like Min Min?



Min Min Mouse

Steve Parish

Notes

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Page 1 of 4

For more book suggestions, information and activity sheets visit www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au

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Exploring Our World

Observing Hopping Mice:

- If you are in South Australia, The Nature Education Centre has hopping mice and dunnarts for hire.
<http://www.nature.sa.edu.au/>
- Place the hopping mice at children's eye level to make it easy for them to observe the mice.
- You may like to include magnifying glasses, paper and pencils for the children to use while observing the mice.
- The hopping mice come with a great fact sheet, which you can share with the children.

Bush Sand Play

- Create a bush scene in the sand pit or sand tray with gum leaves, bark and small stones. You could also include some plastic Australian animals or toys.

Being Creative Through Play

Talk about games with the children – what is their favourite game? Make a list of the children's favourite games and display it in the classroom.

Hopscotch

- Play hopscotch with the children. Do you think Min Min mouse would like to play hopscotch?

Make A House For A Mouse

- Ask the children where they think Min Min lives?
- Can they make a house for Min Min to live in?
- Using cardboard boxes and other collage materials encourage the children to make their own house for Min Min?

Making Medals

- In the story there is a picture of a medal with the words *Worlds Best Hop*.
- Cut out circle shapes from card and help the children decorate them with textas or stickers.
- Talk the children about what makes them special. Are they a good listener, a great drawer or caring friend?
- Write their special talent on their medal and attach some ribbon for them to wear.

Having Fun with Music and Movement

- Sing songs and rhymes about mice
 - *Hickory Dickory Dock*
 - *Five Little Mice*

Move like a mouse:

- Can the children hop around like Min Min. Can they do big jumps, little jumps or high jumps?
- Sing songs featuring other Australian Animals like
 - *Kookaburra Sits in the Old Gum Tree*

Other books in the Steve Parish Finger Puppet series:

Bam the Bat

Gus Has A Gap

Dingo Dan

Sam Snake

Useful websites and links:

www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au

www.steveparish.com.au

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- *Cuddly Koalas*
- *The Brown Kangaroo*

Rhymes and Songs

Five Little Mice

(Use fingers or toes for the actions like This Little Piggy)

This little mousie peeped within
This little mousie walked right in!
This little mousie came to play.
This little mousie ran away!
This little mousie cried, "Dear me!"
Dinner is done and it's time for tea!"

Hickory Dickory Dock

Hickory Dickory Dock
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck one,
The mouse ran down!
Hickory Dickory Dock!

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
Gay your life must be!

Cuddly Koalas

(sung to the tune of Ferres Jacques)

Cuddly Koalas
Cuddly Koalas
Possums too
Possums too
Wallabies and Wombats
Wallabies and Wombats
Kangaroos
Kangaroos

The Brown Kangaroo

(Original Author Unknown)

The Brown Kangaroo is very funny.
She leaps and runs and hops like a bunny. *(Hop around)*
And on her stomach is a pocket so wide, *(Put your hand on your stomach)*
Her baby can jump in and go for a ride. *(Have other hand jump into "Pocket")*

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