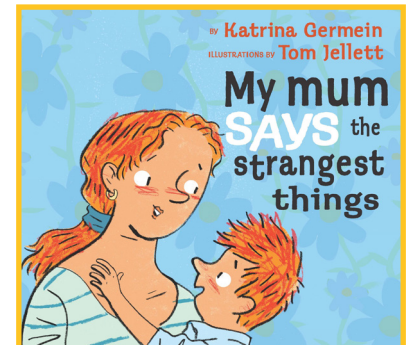


May 2016

Book title: MY MUM SAYS THE STRANGEST THINGS

By Katrina Germein and Tom Jellett

All mums have little expressions, which they may have picked up from their own mums or even their grandmothers such as “as snug as a bug!” or “carrots make you see in the dark!” These expressions are part of our everyday language, explaining and describing things in a fun and loving manner. To a young child, some of these expressions can seem quite abstract and indeed, very strange! **My Mum Says The Strangest Things** by Katrina Germein brings these strange yet affectionate sayings to life. Tom Jellett’s graphic style is warm and humorous and Katrina Germein’s use of repetition and rhythm bring humour and fun to the text. As a sequel to **My Dad Thinks He’s Funny**, this talented team have created another wonderful picture book that is sure to be a hit with the whole family!



### Key Message for Parents

#### Children Learn Language By Listening To It And Using It

Parents can help children develop language skills in the following ways:

- Make story time a special time and try to include the activity in everyday routines
- Ask questions which will develop critical language and thinking skills as you are reading such as “what do you think will happen next”, “ why do you think that happened? Make sure to give children plenty of time to think about their answer, children need a little bit of extra time to respond
- If it is a story, which uses rhyme or repetition such as this one, encourage your listeners to help join in. In this case they would say, “My mum says the strangest things!”
- Have fun when speaking and reading out loud. Changing the intonation of your voice and using lots of expression help bring meaning to the words and further engage a young listener.

### Learning Outcomes

#### Outcome 5: Children Are Effective Communicators

We can help young children become effective communicators by:

- Providing a literacy rich environment
- Giving children time after a story to reflect and think about its meaning. Model good practice by listening and responding appropriately to a child’s ideas and voice
- Teaching children to wait for their turn to talk. You might use a Talking Stone, which is passed around the group at discussion time. Whoever has the stone is the only one talking and everyone else is listening
- Playing games and singing songs which develops aural skills and language skills
- Recognising a child’s home language when other than English.

Find booklists, tip sheets, nursery rhymes and activity and learning time sheets @

[thelittlebigbookclub.com.au](http://thelittlebigbookclub.com.au)





## Themes of this story include:

- Mums/ Families
- Rhyme and repetition
- Humour

## Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their babies.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

## 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. Singing "Hello" to children tells them that they are valued and that you are happy that they are here!

## Good Morning

*Good morning to you  
Good morning to you  
Good morning everybody  
And welcome to you!*



### TIP:

- For smaller groups use childrens names
- Say "good morning" or "Hello" in other languages.

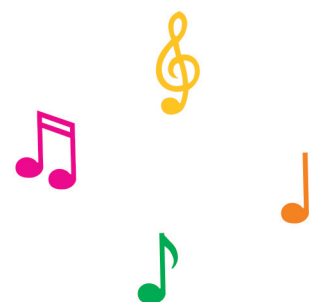
## Song

### Wash Your Face With Orange Juice!

(Peter Coombe <http://www.petercombe.com.au/song/wash-your-face-orange-juice-mr-clicketty-cane> )

*When Mr Clicketty Cane plays a silly game  
All the kids in the street, they like to do the same  
Wash your face with orange juice (washing face actions!)*

*When Mr Clicketty Cane plays a silly game  
All the kids in the street, they like to do the same  
Wash your face with orange juice (this is repeated each time)  
Clean your teeth with bubble gum (cleaning teeth actions!)*



As each verse is sung another action is added such as "fix the fence with sticky tape" or "brush your hair with a toothbrush!" This well-known children's song is lots of fun and its repetitive format makes it easy to sing along!

**TIP: The link above has the full lyrics and music recording.**





## Before Reading

Lets have a big wriggle like we have got ants in our pants! Wriggle wriggle wriggle! Have all those ants gone? Now we can sit still, ready to listen!

In todays story there is a child whose mum says that he has got ants in his pants! In fact the mum in this book says lots of funny things! It's called **My Mum Says The Strangest Things** and it's written by Katrina Germein and illustrated by Tom Jellet.

## During Reading

There is so much humour and fun in this picture book! So when reading it out aloud, use lots of expression and drama to bring meaning and fun to the text. If you feel confident, wiggle on your chair like you have ants in your pants, pull a funny face, and pretend to watch tv with square eyes! Encourage your listeners to join in as well! Who can make the funniest face? Who is the wriggliest?

Take time to enjoy Tom Jellet's wonderful illustrations, which bring to life and meaning to each of these sayings. Look for the pixies at the dinner table or for the ants crawling from the pants!

Encourage your listeners to join in for each "**My mum says the strangest things**". It is repeated after each funny phrase. As you go to read, pause after "my" to cue your listeners, and wait for them to say it with you. The word "strangest" could be emphasised, to add extra effect!

## After Reading

What are some of the sayings mentioned in the book?

Share and reflect together! Parents and carers are sure to have some other favourite expressions they might like to share

The story ends with a picture of a child being tucked into bed and the child saying My mum says the best things! It's a lovely conclusion and brings home the message that all these strange and wonderful expressions are said with love.

Now, does any one have ants in their pants? In other words does any one need to wriggle and dance? You could sing and dance to Ants In Your Pants by The Hooley Dooleys!

## Song

Get little bodies up and moving with this silly song filled with actions!

### **A Salior Went to Sea, Sea, Sea**

*A sailor went to sea, sea, sea, (wave hands like the water/waves/ocean)*

*To see what he could see, see, see. (tap eyes or hold up hands like binoculars)*

*But all that he could see, see, see, (hold out open palms, then tap eyes/hold hands like binoculars)*

*Was the bottom of the deep blue sea, sea, sea. (wave hands like the water/waves/ocean)*

*A sailor went to sea, sea, sea,*

*To see what he could see, see, see.*

*But all that he could see, see, see,*

*Was the bottom of the deep blue sea, sea, sea.*



## Activity Time

### Snug as a bug

Make a snuggly bug wrapped up in a rug!

### What you will need:

- Plastic spoons of any colour
- Permanent markers like sharpies to draw details
- Scissors
- Felt or other material cut into large triangles approx. 10cm x10cm
- Adhesive googly eyes
- Pipe cleaners cut into small lengths for legs
- Masking tape to attach legs



### Instructions/method:

Give each child a spoon and a marker. Have some pictures of bugs for inspiration, they might like to draw dots or stripes to decorate their bug. Next give them googly eyes to stick onto their bug, how many eyes will their bug have? Turn the spoon upside down and tape on three small pieces of pipe cleaners across the back of the spoon for legs.

Then each child is given a square of felt or material with a pre-cut in the middle, top length of the triangle. (See picture). Get the children to poke the handle of their spoon through the hole. Wrap the corners of the material around the spoon and the bug is 'as snug as a bug!'

## Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of relevant books that parents might want to borrow. The Little Big Book Club recommends the following books to support learning in this area -

- **My Dad Thinks He's Funny** by Katrina Germein and Tom Jellett
- **Some Mums** by Nick Bland
- **I Spy Mum** by Janeen Brian and Chantal Stewart
- **Five Minutes Peace** by Jill Murphy

## Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' 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.

### Goodbye

*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.....)!*