

## 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 etc... in the Notes section opposite.

Visit our website [www.thelittlebigbookclub.com](http://www.thelittlebigbookclub.com) for more fun printable activities based on this book.

## Engaging with Language and Literacy



*Little children enjoy books that rhyme as it gives them the confidence and opportunity to join in with the story.*

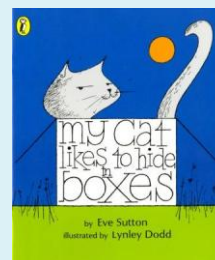
*They then begin to see themselves as readers from a very early age.*

- Children love hearing the same stories over and over again. When you re-read the story pause before the word 'boxes', giving the children the opportunity to fill in the missing word and join in with the story.
- Toddlers are beginning to understand their world and enjoy books that give them information. Read some simple non-fiction books about pets. Provide the children with posters and pictures to look at and talk about.
- Remember that with little children you don't need to read every word in the book, depending on their mood you can just talk about the pictures.
- Talk about the pictures together:
  - What is each cat doing?
  - What can the toddlers tell you about the pictures?

## Enjoying Music and Movement



- Pretend being a cat with the children. They will love watching you stretch, move and sound like a cat and will soon want to join in with you.
- Provide opportunities for the children to role play the cats in the stories by providing them with props like a police hat, a violin or an aeroplane made out of a box or a fan.
- Sing nursery rhymes about cats to the children, eg:
  - *Rat A Tat Tat*
  - *Pussy Cat Pussy Cat*
  - *Five Little Pussycats*
  - *Old MacDonald Had A Farm*
- Find nursery rhymes from the countries in the book to learn with the children. Families in your community and your local library can be an excellent resource.



## My Cat Likes To Hide In Boxes

Eve Sutton and Lynley Dodd

### Notes

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## Discovering Sensory Play



*Never underestimate the value of repetition in a child's development.*

- Little children love playing 'Peek A Boo'. Hide some favourite toys in a box and exclaim "Peek a boo" as you pull them out and show them to the children.
- Boxes provide a great first toy:
  - Loosely wrap boxes in newspaper and let the children unwrap them. They will love the feel and sound of the tearing paper and it is good for their fine motor skills too.
  - Stacking and nesting boxes are an excellent investment as children of all ages will enjoy and benefit from playing with them.
  - Most children love the simple game of putting objects into a box, tipping them out and starting all over again.
  - Collect an assortment of boxes with lids e.g. shoe boxes. Paint them or decorate them with wrapping paper to make them more appealing. Cut out pictures of animals and stick one animal to the inside lid of each box. When you or the child open the lid name the animal on the picture, talk about the animal and encourage them to say it's name or make it's sound.
- Most toddlers like to hide in boxes too!  
Provide a variety of boxes for the children to sit, climb in and out of and of course hide in.
- Take photos of the children hiding in boxes as well as participating in other activities and use them to make your own book. The text may read something like this:

*Hamish and Maria like to draw*

*But Jonah likes to hide in boxes.*

## Exploring Our World



- Young children are interested in the world around them. You can encourage their curiosity by providing them with a globe or map of the world to look at. Talk about and find some of the countries that are in the story. This is also a great opportunity to talk about the many countries and cultures in our world.

## Other Books To Try

**Be Gentle!** By Virginia Miller

**Cat** By Mike Dumbleton

**Dear Zoo** By Rod Campbell

### Notes