

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

The brain develops through use so share stories, songs and rhymes with your children every day.

- Babies enjoy being held and feeling secure while they listen to your voice. Simple board books with clear photos are ideal for babies.
- The Dorling Kindersley *My First Series* of books has a range of titles including ABC, Animal, Body, Numbers, Colours and Words. They feature colourful and clear photographs of many familiar objects and are sure to interest babies and young children.
- Babies and young children develop at different rates and have their own likes and dislikes. When choosing a book for a young child let their likes and interests guide you.

When reading the stories:

- "Chat" about what you see, rather than "reading" the book.
- Allow time for toddlers to make comments or point out familiar items.
- Ask questions such as:
 - "Do you have a teddy?"
 - "Look at that frog I wonder what sound it makes?"
- Remember to alter the pitch of your voice to keep children interested.
- Babies will begin to pat the pictures and later point to things, all before they're one year old; toddlers will be able to point and name many familiar items.

**My First Series**

Dorling Kindersley

Notes

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

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Being Creative Through Play

The *My First Series* are a fantastic series to have on your bookshelf or in a basket somewhere cosy for the children to look at.

Here are some more ideas to help you explore their themes further:

Body

- Make a book about faces using photos of the children.
- You can pick a particular feature such as eyes or mouths and see if the children can guess whose eyes they are.
- Include simple text such as Tom's eyes or Emma's mouth.

Numbers

- Make your own hands on version of the book by collecting the same or similar items as featured in the story.
- Imagine the fun of reading the story and being able to touch, smell and taste the real thing.
- For numbers like 1 fluffy kitten and 10 friendly dogs you could use plastic or soft toy animals.

Colours

- Pick a particular colour and make a display of items in that colour
- Ask the children to bring in something from home to add to the display.
- You could include simple labels to go with items.
- Take a photo of the display and make a book or poster for the children to look back at.

ABC

- Create a poster of each letter to display around the room.
- The children can help by choosing colourful pictures from magazines or catalogues.
- Include photos of the children on the poster with the first letter of their name.
- The letter itself could be collaged with felt or sand to create a sensory experience for the children.

Animals

- Use animals as adjuncts with some of the children's favourite activities, such as block play, play dough, water play or sand play.

The My First Board Books

Body

Numbers

ABC

Words

Colours

Useful websites:

For printable activities:

www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au

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- Create a mini environment for the plastic animals to live in such as a:
 - Forest (using potted plants or small branches)
 - Ocean (in the water trough)
 - Dessert (in the sand tray)

Word

- Make your own mobile using colourful pictures from magazines.
- Involve the children by helping them choose the pictures that interest them from the magazines.
- Mount the pictures on cardboard and write the word on the back. Laminate each picture to make it sturdy.
- Hang each picture by a ribbon or piece of string from a coathanger.
- Always supervise babies carefully when playing with handmade toys.

Exploring Our World

Colour and Number Walk

- Using the *Colours* and *Numbers* book as a starting point go for a walk around the streets how many green things can the children see, how many red?
- Make a story about the walk with simple text such as *We went for a walk and we saw 1 black car, 2 blue letterboxes, and 3 yellow trucks.*

Colours in Nature

- How many different colours can the children find in the garden?
- Can they make a rainbow using leaves, flowers, and stones from the garden?

Enjoying Music and Movement

Many children's songs and rhymes feature themes from the books such as colours, numbers, bodies try singing some of these favourites:

- *1,2,3,4,5*
- *Baa Baa Rainbow Sheep*
- *If you're Happy and You Know It*
- *Twinkle Twinkle*
- *Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*

The My First Board Books

Body

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Songs and Rhymes

Baa, Baa Rainbow Sheep

Baa baa rainbow sheep
Have you any wool
I have, I have
Three bags full.

One for the chicken
And one the goat
And one for the little pig
Who lives in the boat.

The My First Board Books

Body

Numbers

ABC

Words

Colours

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