

Featured in December 2011 as part of our theme -
WE'RE ALL GOING ON A SUMMER HOLIDAY

READ

BEFORE READING

Set the scene by bringing in a suitcase or bag filled with things needed for a beach holiday, for example, bathers, towel, shorts, t-shirt, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and book.

Talk to the children about the things in your bag, where do they think you might be going?

This book is one of a series about the little girl's imaginary hippo friend that lives on her roof.

You might like to read the first book in the series (although this is not necessary) *There's A Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake*.

AFTER READING

Have the children been on a beach holiday? Give them the opportunity to talk about it.

Can the children remember the things you had packed in your bag? Can they suggest anything else for you to pack?

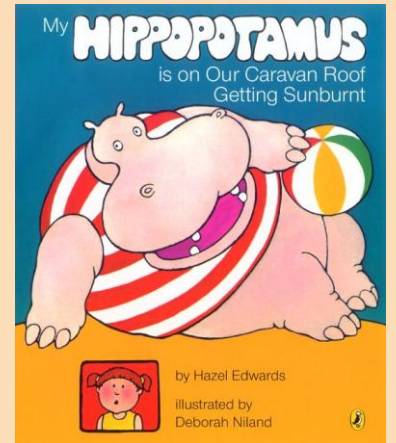
TALK

Imagine you are going on a holiday to the beach. What would you need to pack?

- You can talk about your ideas
- Make a list of things you will need
- Encourage children to draw the things they would pack

Play a memory game – *"I'm going to the beach and I am going to pack..."*

- The first child takes says the introductory sentence and one thing they will pack.
- The next child repeats the sentence, what the first child is packing and then adds their own item to pack.
- For younger children you may want to draw their ideas on a big piece of paper so they have a picture clue to help them list all the items.



Notes

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SING

Singing songs and nursery rhymes helps introduce phonological awareness in a fun and interactive way.

Long car trips are an ideal time for singing with your children. Try these favourites:

- *The Wheels on the Bus*
- *Old MacDonald*

PLAY

SAND PLAY

Recreate the beach in your sandpit.

- Add water to the sand so it sticks together when you build.
- Use a variety of plastic containers to make castles of different shapes and sizes.
- Provide some shells to decorate the sandcastle with.

COLLECTIONS

In the story the little girl collects shells.

Spend some time outside looking for things to collect:

- Leaves
- Gumnuts
- Stones
- Twigs
- Feathers

You can use your collection for:

- Sorting
- Making patterns
- Using in pretend play
- Making necklaces
- Collage

The other books in this series include:
There's A Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake

Look, There's a Hippopotamus in the Playground Eating Cake

Guess What? There's a Hippopotamus on the Hospital Roof Eating Cake.

Hey Hippopotamus, Do Babies Eat Cake Too?

Hooray! There's a Hippopotamus on our Roof Having a Birthday Party

IMAGINATIVE PLAY

You probably don't have access to a caravan but you can still recreate a holiday imaginative play space with tents, sleeping bags or other items from around the home.

If you are having a holiday at home, you might want to set up a tent for the children to play in for a few days.

- A large sheet over a table or chairs makes a great tent.
- Children love experimenting with light and shadows so give them some torches and turn off the lights.
- Have a picnic in your tent.
- Play some simple board or card games in the tent, or try the memory game "I'm Going to the beach and I am going to pack..."

CREATE

HOME FOR HIPPO

- Poor Hippo doesn't fit under the umbrella and he always has to sleep on the roof.
- Can you draw a house for the hippo? Don't forget a kitchen for his cake!

LET'S GET DRESSED FOR THE BEACH

- Download this free activity and choose clothes to keep you sun safe at the beach.
- <http://www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/resources/my-hippopotamus-is-on-our-caravan-roof-getting-sunburnt-activity-time>

DISCOVER

Find out more about hippos:

- What countries do they live in?
- What is their home like?
- What do they eat?

BONUS

Visit www.hazeledwards.com.au for:

- Hippo colouring in sheets
- An interview with the hippo
- A printable hippo poster
- Hazel reading a hippo story

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