

# ACTIVITY TIME

## Esmeralda's Nest

Robert Moore and Mandy Foot

Esmeralda's Nest is a sweet story introducing children to the days of the week and the way that animals nest. Whimsical, detailed illustrations from Mandy Foot highlight the delight and wonder of animals on the farm.

### Let's make a cubby!

#### You will need:

- You and your pre-schooler
- Blankets/sheets, towels or a quilt
- Pillows
- Boxes
- Pegs
- Chairs, a table or lounge.

#### What to do

1. Find a space where you can build your cubby house and it can stay for a few hours or even a few days to extend play
2. Collect items from around the house including blankets, towels, sheets and pillows.
3. Set up the chairs, table or lounge so when it is covered by the sheet or blanket, there is a cubby space underneath
4. Place the pillows inside to make a cosy space for you and your pre-schooler. Your child might like to bring in a favourite book, toys or a torch into the cubby.
5. Share a story together or have a picnic in your special cubby house.

#### STEM ideas

Ask prompting questions about the construction of your cubby to develop your child's thinking skills. Experiment with different building methods and talk about what is working, what falls down or what needs improving.

As you build, ask questions such as, where could we make the cubby house? How big should it be? What do we need to make it? How can we make it stay up? What do you think will happen if we tried this? These types of open-ended questions and conversations introduce concepts such as space, size, balance and cause and effect.

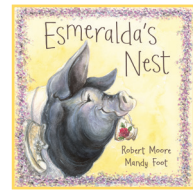
Talk about all the different ways animals make nests. What do they use to build their nest? Do they build a farrow like Esmeralda? Where do they build their nest? In a tree or on the ground?

#### Songs to sing

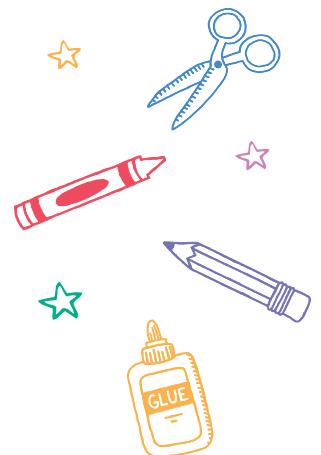
*There's A House, Old McDonald Had A Farm, We're Going On A Bear Hunt.*

#### Key message

Children learn through being engaged and doing.



**Adult supervision is required at all times when children play or are around water.**



**\*You can introduce simple Science Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) concepts to children aged 2+ years through every day play.**