

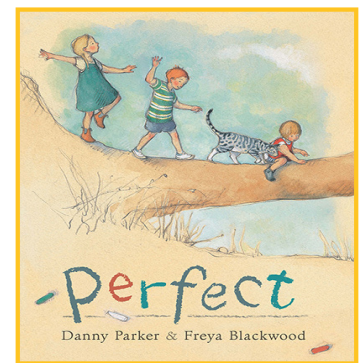
**Theme: Summer**

**December 2015**

**Book title: PERFECT**

By Danny Parker and Freya Blackwood

Danny Parker and Freya Blackwood delicately bring to life the perfect summers day. Perfect is a beautiful story that depicts a day of play between siblings, this story highlights how children of different ages play together or alone yet side by side. Lazy summer days where no strict plans are made and many adventures can unfold is the perfect kind of day. Danny Parkers gentle rhyme is equally matched Freya Blackwood's whimsical illustrations.



### Key Message for Parents

#### Children Learn by Being Engaged and Doing

Sharing stories open up a world of wonder and can offer a range of different experiences, we wont see a dinosaur roaming the streets, but we will can read about them in books.

We can help provide oportunites for children by:

- exploring stories! This story shows 3 children who are all at differnt ages and stages of development. Chidlren learn through exeperences and as they grow their ability to master skills grow with them
- Make time in your day to play games, sing songs and of course, read, read, read!
- create oportuntunites for children to play with open ended objects like a box, stick, blocks etc. Items like this help children to use their imagination and problem solve.

### Learning Outcomes

#### Outcome 4: Children are Confident and Involved Learners

Children need a sense of security and strong sense of wellbeing to be confiednt to explore and experiment with new ideas which is important to build their competence as confident and invovled learners

we can help children become confient and involved learners by:

- creating an enviroment where different people come together for the purpose of an enjoyable shared learning experience
- providing oportunities for play with a wide range of resources
- allowing activites to be child focused and to follow the interest of the child
- acknowledging the journey and effort regardless of hte end result
- positively praising desired behaviours such as curiosity, problem solving, team work, resilience and empathy.

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

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





## 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!*



## Before Reading

A great way to engage children with a story is to spark their interest. A mystery box is a fantastic tool to use and an interesting way to introduce a story. Perfect is a story that shows 3 siblings and their day of playful adventure, inside your mystery box include simple props like a piece of chalk, a small mixing bowl and wooden spoon, a picture of a kite, a seashell and some building blocks.

If you regularly use a mystery box children will eagerly anticipate what will be inside! Begin by talking about summer, what is summer? How do we know its summer? Ask Children what are they looking forward to most about summer? Express that you are looking forward to all the adventures you will have during summer time. Inside this box are some hints of some fun activities, I wonder if we can guess them.... (Pull out the items, let children discuss and explore). The characters in this story will get up to lots of playful adventures, let's read together. This book is called, Perfect. It's written by Danny Parker and the pictures are by Freya Blackwood.

## During Reading

Before reading aloud to children a great tip is to practice! Practice reading the words out loud as you will always read it differently. Perfect is a beautiful rhyming story, as you gently read Danny Parker's lullaby, take plenty of time to pause and explore Freya Blackwood's illustrations. The pictures are intricate and delicate so children will need time to look at them and take in what is happening.

Slowly read the story, and occasionally ask children questions. For example, 'An apron and big bowls for mixing. Some glue, and some things that need fixing' pause, then ask, "I wonder what has happened?" asking open ended questions are a great way for children to think and respond in their own words.

## After Reading

What a busy day! Take time to talk about the story. Ask children to recall the parts of the story they liked best, or invite them to ask questions. This is a beautifully illustrated story that has almost lyrical text, it would be a good if you have the opportunity to explore the story a second time, and this time invite children to tell you what is happening, as they say a picture is worth a thousand words and in the case of Perfect - Freya Blackwood's illustrations are no exception.



## Song

Singing is a fantastic way for children to build their vocabulary with words we might not use in every day life. when we sing slow down our speech and pronouce words more clearly. Children are able to hear different parts of words and thorough repition will learn the song easily.

### Theres a spot over here

*There's a spot over here*

*And a spot over there*

*And a spot on your ear*

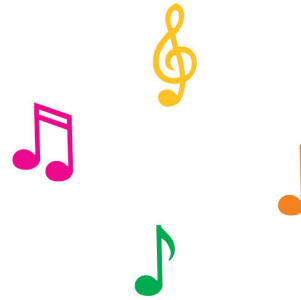
*And a spot on your hair*

*And a lot of little spots*

*In the air*

*Everywhere!*

*It's a spotty kind of day...*



## Activity Time

### Homemade Watercolour Paints

If you can, this is a great activity to do together or as a small group. Take time and let children measure out ingredients, and use lots of different words to describe what is happening.

For big groups, pre-make the paints and have textured paper to paint onto for intesting results.

### You will need:

- 3 teaspoons glucose syrup
- 6 tablespoons corn flour
- 6 tablespoons baking soda
- 6 tablespoons white vinegar
- Food coloring

### What to do:

1. Mix glucose syrup, corn flour, baking soda, and white vinegar together.
2. Divide into jar lids, small containers, or plastic egg carton sections.
3. Add food coloring to each section as desired to make your colors.
4. Let dry.

<http://artfulparent.com/2010/05/making-homemade-liquid-watercolor-paints.html>

Aim to use lots of different describing words whenplaying with children it helps to boost their vocabulary and repetition help to learn tricky words!

### Words like:

**paint, dip, swirl, stroke, swosh, mix, pour and set**



**Adult supervision is essential. Involve and talk with your child as much as possible.**





## Extension Ideas

Try some of the activities out of the story:

- Make a kite out of the paper that you have painted, make predictions about whether your kite will fly
- Follow a simple recipe and make breakfast, lunch or morning tea together
- Spend time outside, at a park, at the beach or in your own garden.

## 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 -

- **Summer Rain** by Ros Moriarty, illustrated by Balarinji
- **Max** by Gus Gordon
- **Seagull** by Danny Snell
- **All through the year** by Jane Godwin and Anna Walker

## 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.....)!*