



**Theme: Summer**

**December 2015**

**Book title: SEASIDE SANDCASTLE – Touch & Feel**

**By Natalie Marshall**



Summer is finally here! Natalie Marshall vibrantly brings to life the wonder and excitement of spending time building a sandcastle by the sea. Seaside Sandcastle is a vibrantly illustrated book that has interesting textures on each page for babies to touch and feel.

### Key Message for Parents

#### The Best Learning Happens in Nurturing Relationships

Babies learn best when they feel safe and secure. Research tells us that over 700 neural connections are made every second in a baby's brain so its very important that caring adults create the best possible learning environment to support baby's brain and overall development.

You can engage babies in the following ways:

- Reading together regularly at home and visiting the library for story sessions. When looking at a book together hold your baby close and give them lots of time to become familiar with the book
- Singing songs and playing simple games like Round and Round the Garden, if possible sit face to face while singing - babies love to watch positive facial expressions
- Talking to your baby, as you are walking, changing their nappy and eating a meal
- Taking opportunities to use lots of different words to expand vocabulary.

### Learning Outcomes

#### Outcome 3: Children Have a Strong Sense of Wellbeing

We can help to children to develop a strong sense of wellbeing by

- Being responsive to a baby's needs, learning to read their cues and signals
- Showing genuine affection, warmth and understanding
- Sharing activities which foster connectedness such as play, story time and singing together.

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.

### Good Morning

*Good morning to you  
Good morning to you  
Good morning everybody  
And welcome to you!*



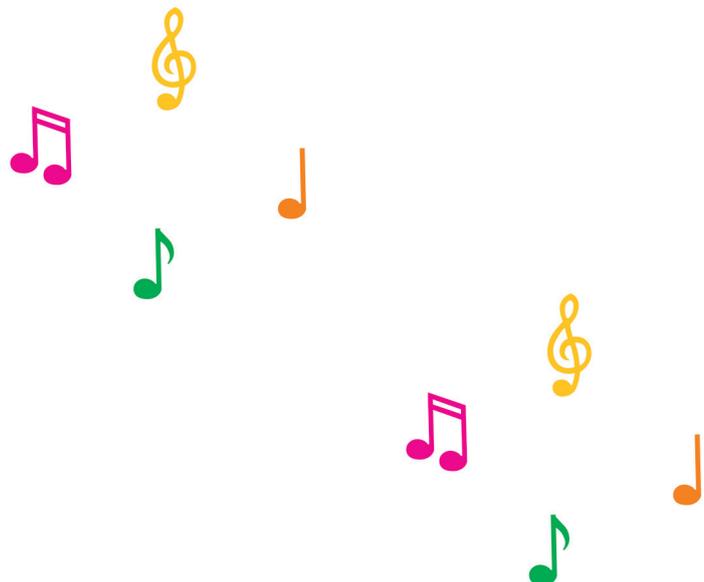
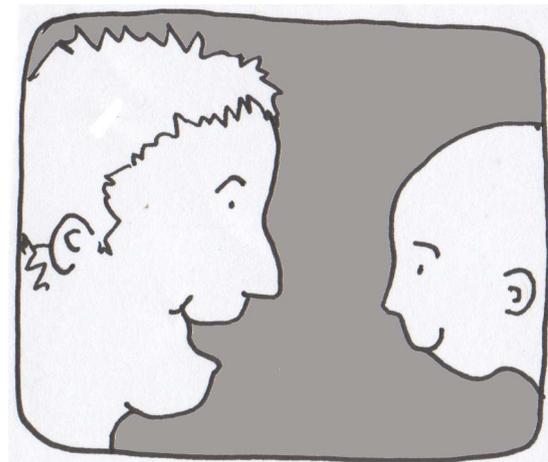
## Song

### I'm a Little Fish

Sung to: "I'm a Little Teapot"

*I'm a little fishy, I can swim  
Here is my tail, here is my fin.*

*When I want to have fun with my friends,  
I wiggle my tail and dive right in!*





## Before Reading

Invite families to sit together, holding their baby close to them. Reading stories together is a wonderful way to bond with babies as holding them close makes them feel safe and secure.

This book is best to read one on one as there are so many different textures on the page, encourage families or older babies to touch the pages, what can they feel? Give them time to respond, even if they are not talking yet.

## During Reading

This book is a great story that uses lots of describing words throughout it. Take your time with the pictures and encourage families to talk about the pictures with their baby. Can you touch the seagull's wings? What do they feel like? I wonder what the seagull is going to do?

Let babies touch the pages, help them to turn the pages and don't worry if they chew or suck on the pages, this is how babies learn and explore!

## After Reading

What an amazing sandcastle! Can you feel the rough, sparkly sand? What is the seagull up to I wonder?

Follow baby's lead, they might like to look at the story again or move onto another activity. Keep books in places where babies can access them easily, like in toy boxes or on low bookshelves. This will encourage older babies who are able to move to choose their own books and over time will help to foster a love of reading.

## Song

Encourage families to sing face to face with their baby. This helps babies to watch your facial expressions and actions, it won't be long before they are mimicking expressions and attempting to copy actions.

### Once I Caught a Fish Alive

1,2,3,4,5

*Once I caught a fish alive!*

6,7,8,9,10

*Then I let it go again.*

*Why did you let it go?*

*Because it bit my finger so*

*Which finger did it bite?*

*This little finger on my right!*





## Activity Time

### Water Play

Water play is great for babies, and it doesn't need to be restricted to bath time only.

If at a library, playgroup or other like organisation inform families in advance and encourage them to bring along a change of clothes for their baby so that they can really enjoy the water play!

Aim to use lots of different describing words when playing with babies and repetition is great.

### Words like:

splash, splosh, swirl, pour, tip, wet, float



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

### You will need:

- Water
- Objects to splash with – bath toys, measuring cups, large bottle caps.
- Towels or tarp if activity is inside
- Shallow container – use a glass baking pan. It is heavy and will not easily tip.

### What to do:

- Set up the water outside on the grass if weather is nice. If you are doing it inside you might like to lay down a few towels on the floor
- Fill the container with just a little bit of water – you don't need much!
- Let your baby splash the water, with their hands or with a bath toy

**\*\*Remember that supervision for babies is required at all times around water**

[www.funathomewithkids.com](http://www.funathomewithkids.com)

### Extension Ideas

- Add objects you might find at the beach like shells and sand.
- Explore with a range of textures, soft, rough, spiky, shiny – use lots of descriptive words as you touch and explore with your baby.
- For older babies, at bath time use a few drops of food colouring in shaving cream and let your baby “Finger Paint” its lots of fun and easy to clean up.



## 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 -

- **Small, Smaller, Smallest** by Natalie Marshall
- **Noodle Loves the Beach** by Marion Billet
- **Spot goes on Holiday** by Eric Hill
- **Bizzy Bear Pirate Adventure** by Neji Davies

## 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.....)!*