

## Play is the most powerful way young children learn.

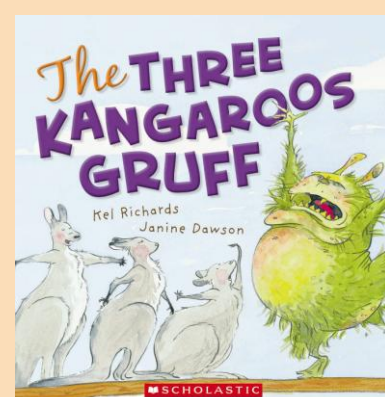
- Every time you play, sing or read with young children they are learning about language.
- The following activities have been designed for early childhood professionals to use as a starting point for developing children's early literacy skills through play.
- Please feel free to adapt them for the home 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](http://www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au) for more fun printable activities based on this book.

## Engaging with Language and Literacy

*There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island.* — Walt Disney

- Introduce the book to the children by reading the title. What can the children see? Can any of the children guess what the green creature on the cover is?
- Talk to the children about bunyips. What colour teeth does the Bunyip have? Look at his feet. What other animal has webbed feet?
- Read books featuring Australian animals including Kangaroos to the children. While the children are looking at the books write down any facts they know about Australian animals and make your own book. The children can help by drawing pictures or cutting pictures out of magazines.
- The story is based on the traditional tale of the Three Billy Goats Gruff, you may like to tell the story to the children. Puppets are great way to help tell a story.
- How many kangaroos are in the story? Talk to the children about the number 3. Write the numbers 1, 2 and 3 on a piece of cardboard. Show the children what the numerals look like.
- What other traditional tales feature number 3 – *Goldilocks And The Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs.*

## Exploring Our World



## The Three Kangaroos Gruff

Kel Richards & Janine Dawson

### Notes

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## We're Going On A Bunyip Hunt

- Act out the story *We're Going On A Bear Hunt* but change the words to *We're Going On A Bunyip Hunt*.
- Where do Bunyip's live?
- Where will you go on your Bunyip Hunt through the bush, over a hill or around a swamp?

## Grow Your Own Grass

- Think of the fun the children will have growing their own grass. Do you think kangaroos from the story would like to taste the grass?
- Fill a small tray with some kitchen cotton wool until it covers the bottom of the tray. Then add water slowly until it feels just damp when you touch it.
- Sprinkle cress or mustard seeds on top of the cotton wool and then place the pot in a warm place.
- Check daily to see if anything is growing and add more water to keep the cotton wool damp.

## Bunyip Cress Head

- Instead of a tray as above use an empty eggshell filled with cotton wool.
- The children can draw a bunyip face on the shell and watch as its green hair grows.

## **Being Creative Through Play**

### Australian Animal Collage

- Using a large sheet of brown paper create your own bush scene.
- The children can decorate background with leaves, twigs, flowers and blossom.
- Using magazines, brochures or post cards featuring Australian animals the children can cut them out and add them to the background to create an Australian bush scene.

### Banksia Bunyips

- Using seed pods from a Banksia tree or pine cones the children can make their own Bunyip.
- Paint the seed pods/pine cones green.
- Add googly eyes and some green wool for hair.
- Use some clay for feet to help the Bunyips stand up.

## **More Books About Australian Animals:**

*Bobbie Dazzler* by Margaret Wild

*Koala Lou* by Mem Fox

*Possum Magic* by Mem Fox

*Dairy of a Wombat* by Jackie French

*Baby Wombats Week* by Jackie French

*The Three Kangaroos Gruff* by Kel Richards

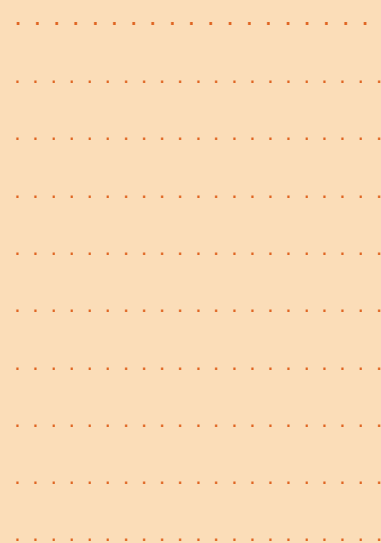
*The Wheels On the Bus* by Mandy Foot

Any books by Steve Parish

## **Useful websites and links:**

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## Make a Bunyip Bridge

- Using climbing equipment create a bridge for the children to walk across. Who will be Kangaroo number 1 or Kangaroo number 2 or 3?
- Encourage the children to role play the story.

## Kangaroo Tails

- Make some kangaroo tails from old socks or stockings stuffed with paper.
- The children can help with the stuffing and then pretend to be kangaroos just like the ones in the story.

## **Having Fun with Music and Movement**

- As a fun movement activity encourage the children to hop like a kangaroo.
  - Can they do big hops and small hops?
  - Can they hop fast and slow?

Sing songs about Kangaroos like

- *Jump Kangaroo Joe*

(the music for is featured on the following website)

<http://www.kididdles.com/lyrics/k011.html>

- *Tie Me Kangaroo Down Sport*

Youtube has a version of song sung by the Wiggles featuring Rolf Harris

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUERRPKA2\\_w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUERRPKA2_w)

## **Rhymes and Songs**

### Jump Kangaroo Joe

Jump! Jump!  
Kangaroo Joe!  
Jump! Jump!  
Come on, let's go!

Jump! Jump!  
Up hill and down!  
Jump! Jump!  
Right into town!

### Tie me Kangaroo down

Watch me wallabies feed, mate  
Watch me wallabies feed,  
They're a dangerous breed, mate  
So watch me wallabies feed

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Altogether now!  
Tie me kangaroo down, sport  
Tie me kangaroo down  
Tie me kangaroo down, sport  
Tie me kangaroo down

Keep me cockatoo cool, Curl,  
Keep me cockatoo cool  
Ah, don't go acting the fool, Curl  
Just keep me cockatoo cool  
Altogether now!  
Tie me kangaroo down, sport  
Tie me kangaroo down  
Tie me kangaroo down, sport  
Tie me kangaroo down  
'n' take me koala back, Jack  
Take me koala back  
He lives somewhere out on the track, Mac  
So take me koala back  
Altogether now!  
Tie me kangaroo down, sport  
Tie me kangaroo down  
Tie me kangaroo down, sport  
Tie me kangaroo down

We're Going on a Bunyip Hunt  
(Children repeat each line after adult)

We're going on a Bunyip hunt,  
We're going to catch a big one,  
What a beautiful day,  
We're not scared.  
Oh ,oh!  
Grass,  
Long, wavy, grass.  
We can't go over it,  
We can't go under it,  
We've got to go through it!  
Swishy swashy, swishy swashy.

We're going on a Bunyip hunt,  
We're going to catch a big one,  
What a beautiful day,  
We're not scared.  
Oh ,oh!  
Mud,  
Thick, oozy mud.  
We can't go over it,

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We can't go under it,  
We've got to go through it!  
Squelch squelch, squelch squelch

We're going on a Bunyip hunt,  
We're going to catch a big one,  
What a beautiful day,  
We're not scared.

Oh ,oh!  
A river,  
A deep, cold river.

We can't go over it,  
We can't go under it,  
We've got to go through it!  
Splash splash, splish splosh.

We're going on a Bunyip hunt,  
We're going to catch a big one,  
What a beautiful day,  
We're not scared.

Oh ,oh!  
A cave,  
A scary, dark cave.  
We can't go over it,  
We can't go under it,  
We've got to go through it!  
Tiptoe, tiptoe.

(Say the following verse all together and quickly)

OH NO IT'S A BUNYIP!!!

Quick!

Through the cave, tiptoe, tiptoe,  
Through the forest, stumble trip, stumble trip,  
Through the river, splish splosh, splish spolosh,  
Through the mud, squelch squelch, squelch squelch,  
Through the grass, swishy swashy, swishy swashy.  
Run to the house, run up the stairs,  
Oh oh forgot to shut the door!  
Run back downstairs, shut the door,  
Run back up, to the bedroom,  
Jump into bed, pull up the covers,  
WE ARE NEVER GOING ON A BUNYIP HUNT AGAIN!!

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