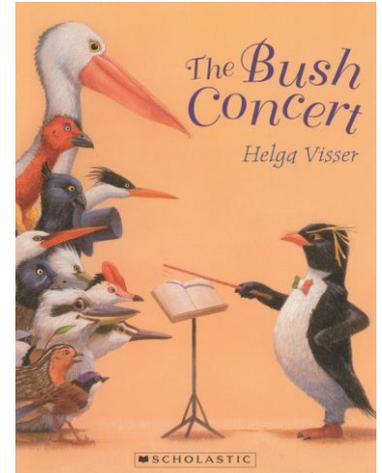


The Bush Concert by Helga Visser

Theme: Music and movement (August 2015)

A drum roll hushed the chatter and din. The concert at last was about to begin! A bush concert is organised to cheer up those affected by a terrible drought. Birds of all shapes, sizes and colours flock to share their many talents and put on an amazing show. Beautifully illustrated and written in rollicking rhyme, *The Bush Concert* is a quintessentially Australian tale that also describes the unpredictability of Mother Nature and how, in times of crisis, communities come together and help one another.



Key Message for Parents

Children learn From Being Engaged And Doing

Music is a wonderful and enjoyable way to engage children. As well as bringing a sense of happiness, music helps the brain develop connections to many different cognitive areas. Musical activities such as singing, chanting, and movement games and playing instruments develop listening skills, enhance language skills, develop social skills and heighten confidence as well.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

Music and movement are both creative forms of expression and ways in which children can articulate ideas, explore language and communicate feelings.

As educators we can encourage parents/carers to give children opportunities to engage in music by:

- Attending live performances together
- Encouraging playfulness in with music making, be creative - open the cupboards to see what makes a sound!
- Playing a range musical styles in the home or when driving
- Singing regularly with babies and children, whenever you can!

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

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au





Welcome

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and remind them 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

Kookaburra sits on the old gum tree

*Kookaburra sits on the old gum tree
Merry, merry king of the bush is he
Laugh, kookaburra laugh!
Kookaburra laughing happily!*

Sing this several times, encouraging children to clap a regular beat with you. If you have a range of instruments you might like to hand these out. You could then change the dynamics, singing and playing quietly or loudly. Try changing the tempo too, playing slow or fast. You might change the pitch as well, singing it low or high! These are fun and effective ways to develop listening skills.

Before Reading

Ask the children to stand up and spread their wings! You might like to play some peaceful flying music and encourage the children to fly slowly and gracefully around the room. Explain that when the music stops they must come back down and land quietly in their nests ready to listen to the story...

Who feels thirsty after all that flying? Imagine if we didn't have any water and couldn't have a drink. Discuss where water comes from and explain that in this story the animals cannot eat or drink because there is a drought.



During Reading

Ask the children if they recognise any of the birds in the story as you read. There are over 60 different species of Australian birds depicted in *The Bush Concert*. Some are easily recognisable and others may not be. There is a visual index at the back of the book where every bird is named and illustrated.

After Reading

Reflect on the following questions, allowing time for thinking, responding and listening:

- Did the children enjoy the concert?
- What acts did they enjoy?
- Do they ever put on shows at home?
- The birds were all sad in the beginning of the story. How did the concert cheer them up?

Ask the children about things that make them sad. Talk about what cheers them up! What happened at the end of the story? What did it mean to have water again?

Activity Time

Jingle Sticks

What you need:

- A wooden chopstick or a stick
- Bells
- Pipe cleaner
- Feathers
- Wool

How to:

String or thread two bells onto a pipe cleaner.

Twist and attach to chopstick or stick tape to secure.

Add two or three coloured feathers on the top.

Add some wool by winding it around the stick and you have feathery percussion instrument ready for your own bush concert!



Extension ideas

Other ideas to extend this story include:

- Create some simple wings or capes using material that has a hole cut out for the head.
- Play musical games such as Musical Chairs or The Freeze Game
- Make nests from twigs or bird feeders for the garden

LEARNING TIME

Featured Stories Program



Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area:

- **This Jazz Man** by Karen Ehrhardt and RG Roth
- **Boom Bah** by Phil Cummings and Nina Rycroft
- **India the Showstopper** by Kerry Argent

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the last line rather than '*library friends*' 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.....)*