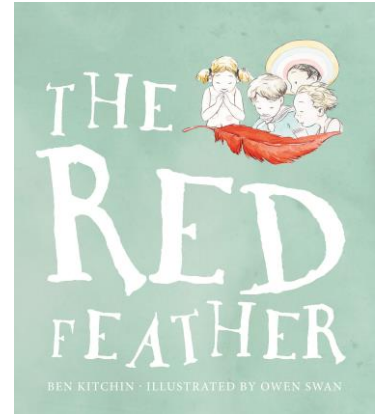




The Red Feather by Ben Kitchin and Owen Swan

Theme: Nature Play (Sept 2015)

The Red Feather is a sensitive story about friendship and sharing. Claude finds a beautiful red feather on the beach and soon discovers it's value. Realising his friends also want the feather, it is traded and swapped it between them. They soon discover it is much more fun to play with the feather together, than to play with it alone, and a lesson in sharing is learnt. Owen Swan's soft watercolour and pencil drawings perfectly capture friends at play, and paint an atmosphere of fun at the beach on a sunny day.



Key Message for Parents

The Best Learning Happens In Nurturing Relationships

- Children have better outcomes when they feel loved and supported. Story time is a wonderful opportunity to share and learn together. Encourage parents to make time to read together every day. Not only will children benefit from the exposure to words and language but also reading together helps develop that very special child/parent bond.
- Where possible remind parents about children's use of technology. Children aged 4-5 years should have approx. 1 hour screen time and minimum of 1-2 hours physical activity per day. Encourage parents to monitor closely, impose boundaries and most importantly, turn screen's off and head into the garden to enjoy some "Nature Play!"

Learning Outcomes

Outcome 1: Children Have A Strong Sense of Identity

Educators, parents and carers can promote this by:

- Modelling and teaching positive values of respect and understanding through our interactions with children and families
- Being responsive and attentive when interacting with children and listening to their ideas
- Organise learning activities which offer a range of learning styles i.e collaborative projects and individual ones
- Assist children to voice their opinions, to negotiate issues with peers and support them in moments requiring self-regulation.

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

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au



LEARNING TIME

Featured Stories Program



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. 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!*

Song

The More We Are Together

Get children to stand in a circle for this song, holding hands. As it is sung ask them to gently swing their arms.

The more we are together, together, together
The more we are together
The happier are we!
Cause your friends are my friends
And my friends are your friends
The more we are together
The happier are we!

Before Reading

Sit children down in the circle and ask them to close their eyes. Tell them you are going to put something very special in the middle of the circle. (Place a red feather in the middle!) Ask the children to open their eyes and tell you what they see. Then ask the children to pass the feather around the circle, describing it by the way it looks and feels.

In the story today, a little boy called Claude finds a special red feather too! Let's sit together hands in laps, eyes ready to look, ears ready listen and read *The Red Feather* by Ben Kitchin and Owen Swan.



During Reading

As the story begins and the characters are introduced take note of what each child is carrying. Ask the children to look carefully at the illustrations on this first spread, as they are an intrinsic part of the story.

After Reading

Who can remember what each child swapped the red feather for? Why did Claude swap it for the whole watermelon? Why did Shelby swap it for the beach umbrella? Have you ever swapped anything before?

Let's play another game with the feather that we can all enjoy together. We will share the feather in a game of "Doggy Doggy Who's Got the Bone?" (substitute the bone for the feather) "Doggy Doggy who's got the feather? Can you guess and are you clever?"

Another idea is to give the children each a drinking straw and see if they can blow the feather across the finish line. This game gets children working together and is lots of fun!

Activity Time

Feather pencils

What you need:

- A bag of craft feathers
- A packet of pencils (coloured or lead)
- Some florist tape or washi tape
- Scissors



How to:

Get the children to choose three different sized feathers. Hold them in a bunch and place on the top of the pencil. Use the tape to stick the feathers firmly in place. When the children have finished making their feather pencils, give them some feather shaped paper and let them draw!



Craft idea from: www.craftsunleashed.com

Extension ideas

Other ideas to extend this story include:

- Create bird masks using the LBBC's Activity Time for The Bush Concert by Helga Visser.
- Identify some birds from your garden, local park or beach.
- Make nests from twigs or bird feeders for the garden



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:

- **Bea** by Christine Sharp
- **When We Go Walkabout** by Rhoda Lalara
- **Max** by Marc Martin
- **Jeremy** by Chris Faille

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.....