

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 etc... in the Notes section opposite.

Visit our website www.thelittlebigbookclub.com for more fun printable activities based on this book.

Engaging with Language and Literacy

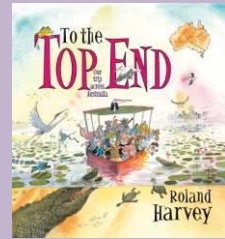


- This book is best read with only one or two children at a time so that they can have a good look at and interact with the illustrations.
- Look at a map of the world, Australia or your state and mark the places where the children have visited.
- After reading the story give the children the chance to share their own stories and experiences. Write down their stories for them to illustrate.
- Young children are interested in their world and enjoy books that give them information. Read some simple non-fiction books about Australian animals. Provide the children with posters and pictures to look at and talk about.
- Other books by Roland Harvey in this series include:
 - *At the Beach*
 - *In the Bush*
 - *In the City*

Discovering Through Play



- After reading the story go back and look carefully at the illustrations to try and find all the different modes of transport that are used in the story, eg, car, plane, ferry, canoe, horseback, bike, helicopter etc...
- Display a list that the children have illustrated.
- Try and incorporate some of these ideas into the children's play, e.g.:
 - Make paper aeroplanes
 - Create boats out of recycled materials



To The Top End

Our Trip Across Australia

Roland Harvey

Notes

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- Encourage the children to share their holidays. Use their experiences as a basis for imaginative play. You could:
 - Create a campsite. Hang some material between two chairs to make a tent, build a campfire out of wooden blocks and cellophane for flames and sit around and tell stories.
 - Set up a travel agency for children to choose and book a holiday. You will need posters and brochures so ask your local travel agency for any out of date materials they can give you. The children will need telephones, a cash register and materials for making tickets, passports etc...
- Set up some imaginative play areas for the children where they can continue the themes of the story. Provide a choice of areas for just one or two children combined with areas for bigger groups of children. Don't forget to use the outdoor environment. You could try:
 - Sea creatures in water play.
 - Plastic dolls and Australian animals in the sand pit.

Exploring Our World



Visit our website for a fun printable map activity.

- Young children are interested in the world around them. You can encourage their curiosity by providing them with:
 - a globe
 - world maps
 - maps of Australia (use these to find the places in the book)
 - street directories
 - atlases
 - photocopies or print outs of maps
- Provide various sizes of paper and lead pencils, black textas and pens so the children can create their own maps.
- Visit www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au for a fun printable map activity.
- Become explorers!
You will need binoculars (make them out of cardboard rolls), magnifying glasses, a container or bag for carrying found objects and a clipboard with paper or notebook for recording discoveries. You can create an environment with toy animals for the children to explore or go outside and discover all the birds and insects that live in your environment.

Notes