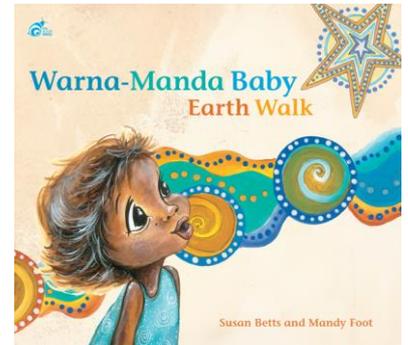


LEARNING TIME

Warna-Manda Baby: Earth Walk by Susie Betts and Mandy Foot

Join Warna-Manda Baby, Allurru as she is guided across the land on an earth walk. On her journey she learns her connection Mother Earth and that family is always watching over you. The stunning illustrations are in calming tones, a blend of both artists styles.

An ode to earth, sea and sky, Warna-Manda Baby Earth Walk is a gift to future generations to help them connect, care and understand the world around them.



Key Message for Parents | The first five years last a lifetime

Parents/caregivers play a critical role in ensuring babies get the best possible start in life. The growth of a baby's brain is affected by the care and experiences adults provide. Loving attention and positive early experiences help brain connections that make learning possible. Babies' brains are open to learning but also vulnerable to negative experiences.

Therefore, babies need positive relationships, rich learning opportunities and safe environments in order to develop to their full potential.

Hugs, cuddles and lots of interaction with your baby through singing, talking and reading in the early years will prepare your baby for success.

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

As educators we can help babies develop a strong sense of wellbeing by:

- Providing warm and trusting relationships. Welcome the babies and parents/carers to your centre/sessions, get to know their names and use positive words and body language when you see them, wave, smile and say hello
- Providing a safe and predictable environment. Establish simple routines to your sessions so babies and parents know what to expect such as the same hello and goodbye songs
- Engaging babies in conversations, songs and books. Regularly talking with babies exposes them to everyday language while singing and reading stories gives access to more complex and unusual words and concepts.

Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

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.

Welcome song – Nina Marni

Nina Marni Welcome (include Kurna language as part of an Acknowledgement of Country for very young children)

Nina Marni, Welcome, welcome, welcome!
Nina Marni, Welcome here today!
We are here on Kurna land, Kurna land, Kurna land
We are here on Kurna land here today.

Song

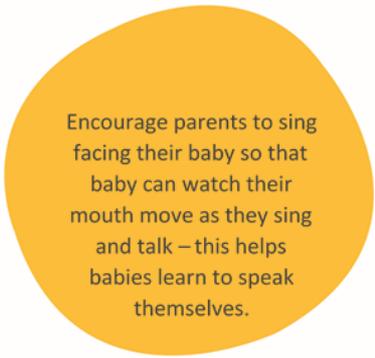
Warna Munda Baby (*sing to the tune of Incy Wincy Spider*)

Warna Munda baby, listen to the sea
Hear the waves go splish..splash
Gently swaying free

Warna Munda baby feel the earth below
Feel the sand in your hands
And in between your toes

Warna Munda baby, see the wind blow
See the leaves in the tree
Rustling to and fro

Warna Munda baby, now it's time to sleep
Shh...dreaming...dreamtime
Sleep baby Sleep

A yellow circle with a white border, containing text. The text is centered and reads: "Encourage parents to sing facing their baby so that baby can watch their mouth move as they sing and talk – this helps babies learn to speak themselves." The text is in a black, sans-serif font.

Encourage parents to sing facing their baby so that baby can watch their mouth move as they sing and talk – this helps babies learn to speak themselves.

Before Reading

Set up your area well ahead of time making it comfortable with cushions, rugs, chairs. Think about the amount of space required based on the numbers attending the session and how families will be able to see the book. Have a place to park prams. Ensure you adhere to any safety plans in place.

Be present as families arrive. This is so important as it is the first step in establishing a warm and welcoming environment and it gives you time to talk to families and ask their baby's name. This will put families at ease allowing them to feel comfortable and relaxed which will mean they are more likely to join in the session.

Introduce the story by showing the cover and reading the title. Talk about the meaning of the words Warna Manda- Warna means Sea and Manda means Earth in Wirangu language. The Wirangu people live in the west coast of South Australia encompassing Ceduna and Streaky Bay.

This book is a collaboration between Susan Betts, a Wirangu woman, author Katrina Germain and illustrator Mandy Foot. The story has developed from Susan's lullaby, Warna Munda Baby.

During Reading

Look for the eagle in the illustrations that is following Allurru on her journey. Find the eagle on each page and point it out.

Follow the footprints with your finger. There are baby footprints and animals' footprints. Talk about the different shapes each makes.

Name the animals and things she finds along the way – pelican and wombat, eagle, shells, starfish, fire, star and family



After Reading

Explore the endpages at the back of the book where there are key words from the story written in English and in Wirangu language. Practice saying the words in both languages.

Do some movements like Alluru

- Stretch up
- Lay on back
- Crawling
- Walking
- Bending over
- Sitting
- Balancing

Extension Ideas

Read

Read other indigenous stories about babies and culture such as

- **Welcome Child** by *Sally Morgan*
- **Baby Business** by *Jasmine Seymour*

Sing

Sing more lullabies with your baby to calm them or to settle them to sleep.

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

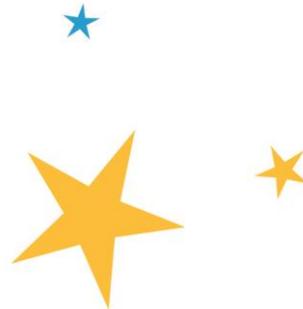
Twinkle, Twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are
up above the world so high
like a diamond in the sky
Twinkle, Twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are

Moonlight, star bright

Moonlight,
Star Bright,
Come now baby
Snuggle up tight

Wriggle toes,
Crinkle nose,
Time for eyes
To gently close

Time to sleep,
Shhhh...time to sleep.
Time to count
The woolly sheep,
1...2...3...
Shhhhhhhhh.



Talk

Talk to your baby about what you are doing. Babies love to hear their parents' voice and research shows that parents voices engage babies' brains far greater than other sounds.

Play

Visit the beach and look for seashells. Stack them, count them and order them into sizes.

If you don't have a beach near you set up a sensory tray with sand. Gently pour sand over your baby's hands and feet. Talk about how it feels- soft, squishy, cold.

Go for an earth walk around your neighbourhood. Look for animals, flowers and birds along the way and talk about what you can see.

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. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Welcome Baby to this World** by *Jess Rackyleft*
- **Once Upon My Legs** by *Mike Dumbleton*
- **Look Baby** by *Janeen Brian*

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

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.....)!