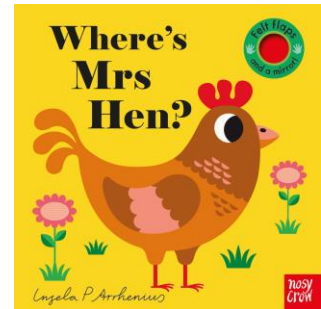


Where's Mrs Hen? By Ingela P Arrhenius

This sturdy, brightly coloured board book is perfect for little ones. Each farm animal is hidden under a soft piece of felt, perfect for sensory play! Babies will love to lift and discover the animals in this friendly farm adventure!



Key Message for Parents | The Best Learning Happens in Nurturing Relationships

As parents we can support language acquisition by:

- Reading daily to your baby
- Singing songs and rhymes with your baby
- Talking, responding and listening attentively to your baby.
- Exposing young children to regular songs, stories and rhymes from birth will give children approximately 5000 words in their vocabulary by the time they start school!

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

We can help babies become effective communicators in the following ways:

- The more a baby experiences language the quicker they will pick it up! Talk with your baby whenever you can! When changing a nappy, mealtimes or out shopping!
- Singing lots of songs such as nursery rhymes, playing games together such as Peek-a boo! Today's story is a perfect one for learning this game!
- Copying the sounds your baby makes! This teaches them "turn taking" in conversation and will encourage them to make even more sounds and to make more attempts at communication. These early "babble" sounds mark the very beginning of a baby's language development.
- Using eye contact when communicating with your baby and lots of facial expressions

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

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au     



Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their babies. 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 - Come Along

*Come along and sing with me, sing with me,
Come along and sing with me,
It's time for story time*

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.

Welcome everyone – today's story is called *Where's Mrs Hen* by Ingela P Arrhenius and takes place on a farm! But before we read it, let's play a rhyming game together! **Ask parents and carers to use eye contact when singing to their little ones. You could perhaps use a doll or Teddy to model this.**

Song - Finger Play : This little Piggy (tickle each toe beginning with the big toe)

*This little piggy went to market
This little piggy stayed home
This little piggy ate roast beef
This little piggy had none!
But this little piggy cried...wee, wee, wee, wee
All the way home! (tickle baby)*

Before Reading

Encourage parents and carers to get comfortable and try to settle their babies ready for the story. Babies can sit facing forward in laps or any other comfortable position, but make sure they are safely supported by their parent's arms!

Babies love sensory experiences! Using a little bell or a toy with a squeaker or puppet will help gain baby's attention. For this story you could use a small puppet that pops its head out from behind your back and says "Peek a Boo!"

Babies will enjoy this element of surprise!

Introduce the book **Where's Mrs Hen!** Look at the cover – what animal can we see? I wonder if Mrs Hen might have some friends on the farm we could meet – let's open the book and find out!

During Reading

The setting for this book is a farm! It's a **lift the flap** book, so good for interactive play! If you have multiple copies, please give a copy to each family to share with their baby during this story time session.

As you lift the flap up, make a sound that goes up in pitch to mimic the action. Make the animal sounds as they are found too. Encourage parents/carers to join in as well!



After Reading

Today's story was a lift the flap book, so let's first have some fun playing a *peek a boo* game together!

Song/Game – Peek-a-Boo

Peek-a-boo is a traditional game and one of the first games babies often learn!

Babies love the repetitive nature of the game and enjoy the interactive excitement of it! *Peek a Boo* develops language skills and emotional engagement. Using the following rhyme, encourage parents to touch baby's nose, toes and tickle tummies as they play.

Peek a boo! (cover eyes for "peek I see you (tickle tummy)

I see you

I see your button nose (touch nose)

I see your tiny toes (tickle toes)

I see you!

Peek a Boo! (take hands away for "boo")

Peek a boo!

Activity time - Farm Play

Toys can help develop babies fine motor skills and coordination. Soft toys and baby toys provide a sensory experience for babies too. Encouraging babies to reach out and grasp things can strengthen their hands and develop their grip skills too.

You could hide some soft farm animals in boxes (perhaps the boxes are "barns" on a farm!) Open the boxes and say "peek-a-boo"! Give the animals to the babies for them to feel and squeeze.

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.

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.....)!