

Play is the most powerful way young children learn.

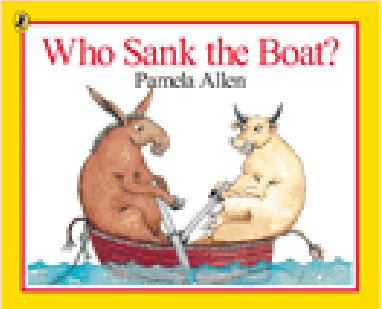
- Every time you play, sing or read with young children they are learning about language.
- The following activities have been designed for early childhood professionals to use as a starting point for developing children's early literacy skills through play.
- Please feel free to adapt them for the home and with children of different ages.
- Don't forget to record your own ideas, activities that worked really well, relevant songs and rhymes in the Notes section opposite.
- Visit our website www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au for more fun printable activities based on this book.

Engaging with Language and Literacy

*There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world.
Love of books is best of all.*

Jacqueline Kennedy

- Talk about the cover of the book. What animals can the children see on the cover?
- As you are reading the story, pause at the questions and allow the children to make their own predications about *who sank the boat?*
- Discuss with the children the concepts sinking and floating. Introduce words like heavy and light. Set up a container of water and some objects that will float and sink to demonstrate the concept to the children. Let them have lots of opportunities to experiment for themselves.
- Make finger puppets to use while telling the story. The children can each have a turn of being the cow, the donkey, the sheep, the pig or the mouse. A shoebox makes a great boat. Encourage the children to make the sound of each animal. What sound does a mouse make?
- If you have access to a water trough you could retell the story using a plastic boat or margarine container and plastic farm animals. I wonder if the boat will sink when all the animals are inside it?



Who Sank The Boat?

Pamela Allen

Notes

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- Create a display of books about boats. Talk to the children about the different types of boats, rowboats; tug boats, ocean liners, yachts etc.

Exploring Our World

Sinking and Floating

- Go for a walk around the playground and collect a variety of materials eg sticks, rocks and leaves.
- Fill a water trough or large container with water.
- Revisit your discussion with the children about floating and sinking.
- Encourage the children to make some predictions about what they think will happen when they place the things in the water.
- After the children have made their predictions, let them test their objects and see what happens.
- Create a way for the children to record their findings. This can be as simple as dividing a large sheet of paper in half. Label one side floating and the other sinking. Take photos of the different things, the children can cut around the pictures and stick them to the sheet of paper.
- Magazines are another great source of pictures.

Leaf Boats Races

- Sand pits with water or shallow waterways provide a great place for leaf boat races. Have fun trying lots of different shaped leaves. Which ones are the fastest, big leaves or small leaves?

Being Creative Through Play

Margarine/Milk Carton Boats

- Make a boat from a margarine container, plastic cup or milk carton. The children can test if their boat can float in the water trough. *Remember to always supervise children near water.*

Cardboard Box Boat

- Make the boat from the story from cardboard boxes with the children.
- What colour is the boat in the story? The children may like to paint their boats the same colour.
- The children can pretend to row and see how many toys your child can fit in their boat with them?

More Books About Transport:

Minton Goes! Driving and Trucking by Anna Fienberg

Minton Goes! Sailing and Flying by Anna Fienberg

Minton Goes! Underwater and Home at Last by Anna Fienberg

Rattletrap Carr by Phyllis Root

Mr Gumpy's Outing by John Birmingham

Useful websites and links:

For printable activities:

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Boat Adventures

Make the shape of a boat from the climbing equipment.

You could include props like:

- Life jackets
- Chairs or benches for the children to sit on
- Long cardboard cylinders or alike for oars
- Fishing rods
- Hats, sunglasses
- Buckets

Alternatively you could create a seaside scene in the home corner with the same items as above.

- Paint an ocean scene on large pieces of paper as a backdrop.
- Let the children mix paints to make the colour of the ocean?
- What other things do you see near the ocean?
 - Seagulls
 - Fish/crabs
 - Lighthouses
 - Jetties

Boat Snacks

- Have fun making a snack in the shape of a sailboat. A cheese slice cut into a triangle makes a great sail and a slice of bread can be cut into the shape of a hull. What other yummy food could you decorate your boat with?

Having Fun with Music and Movement

- Sing *Row Row Row Your Boat*. You can sing some of the other verses included in the rhymes and songs section.
- As a fun movement activity the children can hold hands with a partner and rock back and forth as they sing *Row Row Row Your Boat*.
- Other songs about boats and the sea include:
 - *Sail Sail Sail Your Boat*
 - *I'm A Little Tug*
 - *A Sailor Went To Sea Sea Sea*
 - *Boats out in the Sea*
 - *Here is the sea*

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Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the river,
If the river gets you wet
Don't forget to shiver

Row, row, row the boat
Gently to the shore,
If you see a lying' bear
Don't forget to roar

Row, row, row your boat
Watch the water flow,
Rowing's fun but rowing's hard
That is what I know

Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the lake,
Don't stand up and rock the boat
That's a big mistake!

Row, row, row your boat
See the water run,
Rowing here and rowing there
Oh we're almost done

Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the stream,
Ha ha fooled you all
I'm a submarine

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