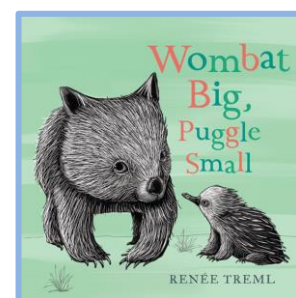




## Wombat Big, Puggle Small by Renée Trembl

Discover the world of opposites with two endearing Australian animals who playfully explore, roll, snuggle and rumble through this delightful book. Renée Trembl's trademark style is perfect for little ones; presenting two lively, loveable characters in amazing detail against a flat coloured background. Join in the antics of a wombat and an echidna puggle and get rolling and crawling, up, down, in and out!



### Key Message for Parents

#### Children Learn from Watching and Copying

Neuroscientists assert that children learn skills through two main strategies (trial and error) and observation (imitation). (Winter 2016)

The ability to mimic and imitate is present at birth! Mirror neurons enable babies to learn through observation and imitation.

- It is therefore important to engage with babies through singing and talking to activate these neurons
- Play simple interactive “peek a boo” games, sing nursery rhymes and use simple gestures like waving, clapping and sticking out your tongue! Before long baby will be poking out their tongue and clapping too!

### Learning Outcomes

#### Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

- Wellbeing is supported when babies experience a nurturing and loving environment
- Work with parents to “get to know” each baby in the group, what makes them laugh, what do they like or dislike, what songs do they enjoy?
- Plan a predictable routine, so that babies can anticipate “what’s next”

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

[thelittlebigbookclub.com.au](http://thelittlebigbookclub.com.au)





### Themes within this story

- Size
- Opposites
- Rhyming stories

### 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*



#### Repeat and replace "sing" with bounce, rock, clap etc.

*Come along and bounce with me, bounce with me, bounce with me*

*Come along and bounce with me, it's time for story time*

#### Finger Play - Hickory Dickory Dock! (Concept Up and Down)

*Hickory Dickory Dock*

*The mouse ran up the clock (run fingers up baby's arm or leg)*

*The clock struck one, (clap) the mouse ran down (run fingers down)*

*Hickory Dickory Dock!*



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.



## Songs

### Egg Shaker Song (Concept up and Down, this song is spoken)

*Egg shaker up*

*Egg shaker down*

*Egg shakers dancing all around town*

*Dance them on your shoulders*

*Dance them on your head*

*Dance them on your knees*

*And tuck them into bed!*



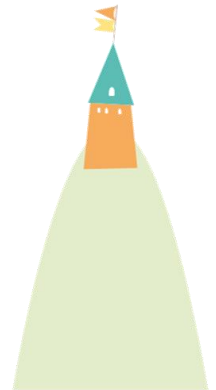
### We're Going Up

*We're going up, we're going up as high as we can go (lift baby up)*

*We're going down, we're going down, we're going way down low (bring baby down)*

*Up, up, up, up, up, up! (lift baby up again)*

*Down, down, down, down, down! (bring baby back down to lap)*



## Before Reading

Ensure that babies and parents/carers are sitting comfortably. Today's story is called *Wombat Big, Puggle Small*. It is written and illustrated by Renée Treml. Let's have lots of fun, join in with me as I read - there are some actions we can all do together throughout the story.

Begin with the cover: What can we see? Point to each animal saying "Big and Small" Stretch out your arms, making a big gesture then close hands to make a small gesture. Encourage parents to do the same!

## During Reading

The simple text allows you as the reader to inject lots of expression to bring meaning to it! The font itself suggests how words may be delivered. Wombat **big**, use a loud voice, Puggle **small**, use a quiet voice. Facial expressions are important especially with words like "Yuck or Yum".

Encourage the parents to repeat words with you as you read, using eye contact and engaging with their baby. Reading is a perfect way to activate those mirror neurons!

## After Reading

What were some of the opposites presented in the book? How can we enact or represent these using our bodies and faces?



## Ideas

- UP and DOWN- Sit baby on lap, slowly raise knees up and down
- FAST and SLOW-Sitting baby in lap, bounce or rock. Alternatively get parents to stand up, holding baby and walk fast and then slow
- ON and Off -Sit baby on lap then open legs so baby sits in-between, then lift back onto lap
- HAPPY and SAD-have fun, pulling funny faces with baby, using lots of eye contact
- FAST and SLOW-hold baby's legs and move them slowly, then move them fast. Clap hands slowly, then fast etc.

## Activity time

### Ball Fun

**\*Supervision is required at all times.**

Set up a "ball pit" with a range of balls of different sizes. Encourage parents and carers to roll the balls to each other. Big blow up balls are fun and provide different sensory experience. Bubbles and balloons are like "floating balls" and could also be used as well. You could have a sorting area where Big and Small balls are placed or two different sized tubes, where the balls or pom poms are dropped.



### Extension ideas

- Use a strainer to 'scoop' up balls –activity to develop motor skills
- Join your local library and borrow books and toys to introduce new ideas and games to your baby
- With your baby look through their baby photo albums and talk about how much they have changed and grown



## 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.

- **Once I Heard A Little Wombat** by Renee Trembl
- **Hop Up Wriggle Over** by Elizabeth Honey
- **Small, Smaller, Smallest** by Corina Fletcher and Natalie Marshall

## 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.....)!*

