

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

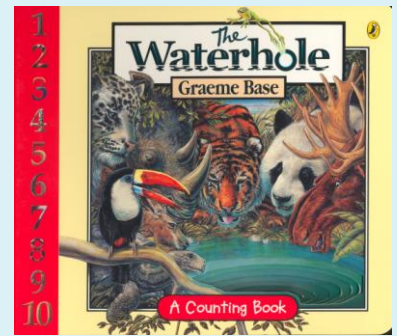
One Rhino, two Tigers, three Toucans . . . all the animals come to drink at the waterhole. Finally ten Kangaroos arrive, but there's no water left! Will the water come back? Will there be enough for everyone? Learn to count with this wonderful new edition for the very young.

When reading the story:

- As you read the book you can count the animals on each page.
- Young children will enjoy the opportunity to touch and explore the cut out waterhole in the pages. Can they touch the bottom of the waterhole?
- Talk about what the animals are doing in each picture. "Look the rhino is drinking the water." "Look the tigers are drinking the water – they are thirsty. We drink water when we are thirsty"
- Can you and the children find the frogs on each page? Hint – there are 10 frogs and the first page, the number of frogs goes down as the size of the waterhole goes down. You could explain to older children that there are less frogs on each page because there is less water for them to live in.

After reading the story:

- Make finger puppets or puppets on pop sticks to retell the story. Younger children will enjoy holding the puppets during the story.



The Waterhole

Graeme Base

Notes

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For more book suggestions, information and activity sheets visit www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au

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- Recreate the waterhole with a piece of blue card or material. The children can help their animals to drink from the waterhole.
- Revisit the numbers and animals in the story, “Look at the two tigers, look at the six fish.”
- Point to the animals and count out loud.

Discovering Sensory Play

Make Your Own Waterhole

- Fill a water tray or container with water. You can use blue food colouring or cellophane to dye the water blue.
- Include plastic animals to drink at the waterhole.
- Add some stones, leaves and other natural materials around the waterhole.

Animal Collage

- Using the last page of the book as inspiration, create an animal collage.
- Create the background with the children by painting a large piece of paper using various shades of green.
- Cut out pictures of animals from magazines, calendars or cards to paste onto the background.
- You can also add leaves, flowers and twigs to the collage.

Exploring Our World

Water, Water, Everywhere

- All living creatures need water. Talk to the children about conserving water eg turning off taps after washing hands.
- Many Botanic Gardens and some local parks feature waterways such as ponds and creeks for the children to observe the many creatures that live on or around water.

Remember to always supervise young children near water and check regulations regarding excursions near water.

Exploring In The Garden

- Graeme Base’s books feature many small details hidden in the pictures.

More Books About Families

Time For Bed by Mem Fox
Hush Hush, Kiss Kiss and Little Humpty by Margaret Wild
The Family Book by Todd Parr
Farm Babies by Rod Campbell

Useful websites:

For printable activities:

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- Take the children outside in the garden or to a local park and encourage them to look carefully at the details in nature.
- What small creatures can the children see? Maybe they will find some ladybirds like in the story.
- Talk about the shapes, colours and feel of the leaves and flowers.
- For older toddlers you could use magnifying glasses and bug catchers.

Zoo Fun

- Visit your local Zoo's website to find out more about the animals that live there.
- Create a zoo in the home corner or block corner for children to play in.
- Plan an excursion to the zoo.
Choose one or two animals from the story to find at the zoo.

Enjoying Music and Movement

Sing songs that feature the animals in the story:

- *Galumph*
- *Little Turtle*
- *Five Little Speckled Frogs*

Sing counting songs with the children:

- *Once I caught a fish alive*
- *Five Green and Speckled Frogs*
- *This Little Piggy*

When young children hear rhymes again and again they will begin to remember them and join in with the actions and words.

Rhymes and songs:

Galumph

Galumph went the little green frog one day
Galumph went the little green frog
Galumph went the little green frog one day
And we all go galumph galumph galumph
But we all know frog's go ladedadeda ladedadeda ladedadeda
We all know frogs go ladedadeda

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They don't go galumph galumph galumph

Once I Caught A Fish Alive

1,2,3,4,5

Once I caught as fish alive

6,7,8,9,10

Then I let him go again

Why did you let him go because he bit my finger so?

Which finger did he bite?

This little finger on my right.

Little Turtle

There was a little turtle

Who lived in a box.

He swam in the puddles

And climbed on the rocks.

He snapped at the mosquito,

He snapped at the flea.

He snapped at the minnow,

And he snapped at me.

He caught the mosquito

He caught the flea

He caught the minnow but he didn't catch me!

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