Using open-ended questions throughout a story assists with keeping a child engaged with a story and in meaningful conversations about it. There are many other benefits for using open-ended questions, for example: it allows children to be creative, express their thoughts, ideas, opinions, develop their language and have a larger vocabulary. You can use questions such as: “What do you think will happen next?”, “What does this make you think of?” or “How can we solve this problem?”. With young children, it is great to use interactive books that involve simple actions, words for children to repeat and stories that go for a few minutes, Kindergarten-aged children can generally focus on stories for up to 20 minutes’ duration.

**BOOK OF THE WEEK**

**Wide–Mouthed Frog** — by Keith Faulkner, is a beautiful illustrated pop up picture book. The story allows you to go on a journey with the wide-mouthed frog and discover what animals like to eat, with a funny ending.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-20lSMnMh8

**SONGS OF THE WEEK**

**Five Little Speckled Frogs**, and **Galumph the Green Frog**, are great action and movement songs for both parent and child to engage together in and mimic being a frog.

**Five Little Speckled Frogs**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSC-gHBU_d0

**Galumph the Green Frog**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyD0L_HTz3I
Music in June
Introducing music in your life and your child’s life within your everyday routine, helps to reduce anxiety and stress, it decreases negative emotions and calms children as it stimulates the brain alpha waves.

Music engages us on an emotional level and physical levels. If you put on loud and fast beat songs this will encourage children to run around, dance and have fun with loud singing. When a child is distress and you sing to a child, this will change their emotion and bring a sense of calmness. Therefore putting on calming lullaby music before going to bed, or singing a song at nappy changing times, can help with the transition of routines for you and your child.

Music is a fun and engaging activity. It is a way to impact social learning in a positive experience, allowing them to develop emotionally with others, while reflecting on their own inner thoughts and feelings. In playgroup, making music with others gives children a wonderful feeling of belonging to a group. Children that might have difficulty joining in activities with others because they may be shy, have limited English ability or additional needs, can freely participate when it comes to music activity as they can explore creativity through free movement.

Below are some ideas on making instruments and songs to add to your resources.

Making Shakers — Children enjoy listening to the different sounds that shakers can make. You can shake them fast and slow, making loud and soft sounds. Using materials from around your home, you can make shakers appropriate for different age groups. The bottle shakers are great for young babies as they can see what is inside the bottles and watch the assorted items move around as they shake it. For older children they can go on a journey outside to collect items to put in the egg cup shaker and decorate the outside or their shaker.

Action Songs — A great aspect with singing and dancing is you do not need any props, there are songs that you can simply use your body movements like “Open Shut Them” is all about hand movements. “If you are happy and you know it” uses your body movement that reflects and expresses your emotions and inner feelings.
**Scarves and Ribbons** –

Babies enjoy the famous “Peek-a-Boo”, using a variety of tecture of scarves. You can dance around with scarves, using creative moves and actions. Making Ribbon bangles is also another creative way to dance along to music, you can get an old bangle and add assorted ribbons or materials from around the home.

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**Routine Songs**

“**Water, Water**” song can be used with children at bath-time, while introducing actions that involve at bath-time, for example, splash, rub and wash.

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WATER, WATER
Water, water, splash, splash, splash!
(Pretend or actually splash)
Lather, lather, wash, wash, wash!
(Rub hands together)
Bubble, bubble, rub, rub, rub!
(Rub baby’s tummy)
Trickle, trickle, scrub, scrub, scrub!
(Trickle fingers on cheek)
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“**Hands go up**” is an action song that you and your child can do before sitting down for a bedtime story.

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Hands go up, and
Hands go down!
I can turn myself around.
I can stand up
On one shoe.
I can listen.
So can you!
I can sit. I’ll show you how!
Story time is starting now!
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Darebin Libraries are producing two Storytime sessions per week on Monday and Wednesday at 10.15am and two Rhyme time sessions per week on Tuesday and Thursday at 10.15am. These sessions can be viewed at any time after they are posted on the Darebin Libraries Facebook page at www.facebook.com/darebinlibraries. There will also be a semi-regular “Wildcard” session on Fridays at 10.15am, it may be a special craft activity or an author event.

ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES
Darebin Libraries Online Digital learning is an available resource that caters for the whole family.

COVID 19 Resources and Information
There have been further announcements about the gradual easing of the COVID-19 quarantine restrictions. The easing of restrictions can raise many questions and strong feelings in parents/carer such as do I send my child school? Is it safe to play on the playground? Should my child commence sports training? It is important to ensure that the environment can cater for safe hygiene practices, quarantine restrictions and social distancing requirements. These measures will help minimise the spread of infection. To make informed decisions based on accurate information, please ensure you check for information updates as directions on COVID-19 quarantine restrictions are subject to change. Please see https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

Winter has arrived, and children are more likely to present with common cough and/or cold symptoms. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, such symptoms may result in your child being required to undertake a COVID-19 swab test. In this regard, please refer to this resource which provides strategies to assist your child to cope with this medical procedure, see https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-01/how-to-get-your-child-to-give-a-coronavirus-swab-test/12304252.

Service Australia has released an Easy Read brochure outlining key information about Centrelink benefits and services during the COVID-19 quarantine. This brochure explains current procedures for making claims from Centrelink and extra payments available at this time. The Easy Read document is now published on the COVID-19 resources for community groups page, and is attached for your reference. It can also be downloaded from the Covid-19 eKit link on the page. https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/community/community-resources-and-help/coronavirus-covid-19-resources-community-groups.

If you need assistance to access food relief and essential items, you can find a local service that can assist you with grocery vouchers, food parcels and pre-made meals. For more information, see Darebin Emergency Food Relief and Support Services during COVID19 (file:///C:/Users/ntoprakk/Downloads/DarebinEmergencyFoodReliefandSupportServicesduringCOVID-19.pdf). If you’d prefer to speak to someone, you can find the help you need with Council’s Community Navigation Service. Call us on 8470 8888 and ask to be connected to the Community Navigation Service, weekdays from 9am to 4pm. Alternatively email covidsupport@darebin.vic.gov.au

Playgroups Victoria have also released a COVID-19 update and uploaded their CEO’s letter dated 15 May 2020 on their website at www.playgroup.org.au/covid19
PARENTING PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

ParentZone Northern https://www.anglicarevic.org.au/events/
Raising Children - First 1000 Days: Conception to 2 years https://raisingchildren.net.au/guides/first-1000-days?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI2viZ3OOh6QIVByUrCh3nNARREAAYASAAEgKkbfD_BwE

Subscription to What’s on for Families eNewsletter
You and your families can also subscribe to our monthly What’s on for Families eNewsletter at http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/en/Your-Say/Newsletters/Subscribe

CONTACT US
All enquiries and feedback regarding Community Playgroups in Darebin should be directed to:
Early Years Leader: 0413 807 858 Email: early.years@darebin.vic.gov.au