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.

**BOOKS OF THE WEEK**

**How do you Feel?** - by Anthony Browne is a book that is developmentally appropriate for children aged between 0-3 year old. This book explains feelings in simple words for children to repeat.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klLR7wfi-X4

**In my Heart** - by Jo Witek is also a beautiful book about feelings and encourages children to identify their own emotions, this book is aged appropriate for kindergarten children.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlfLgHBwYx4

**SONG OF THE WEEK**

**If you’re Happy** - is an action and movement song that allows children to use physical gestures to represent different emotions.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4WNrvVjiTw
Music in June

Songs with actions enhance our children development across a range of skills. They help strengthen memory and recall skills, broaden vocabulary, ability to comply with directions and enhance social skills and bonding. It also promotes fine motor, gross motor and hand-eye coordination. Children can be creative and foster self-confidence. Most importantly songs with actions engages children’s attention and are full of fun, fun, fun.

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

Wind Chimes and Xylophones – Using assorted materials and objects around your home, you and your child can make creative wind chimes for outside. Children can decorate assorted size tins, old keys or old metal bangles. Children can enjoy listening to the different sounds a Xylophones makes, lightly tapping on glass jars with coloured water and at different levels will produce different sounds. You can also make a Xylophone out of wood pieces and super glue.

Action Songs - Both actions songs involve children to use physical movements and enhances children listening skills by implementing simple directions/actions within the song.
Click Clackers, Tamborine’s and Whistle Blowers – Create your own pattern or animal click clacker. Using a piece of cardboard, and glue a small bottle lid on both ends, fold your cardboard in half and you have your click clacker. Children can be creative and decorate a semi circle shape cardboard or paper plate folded in half, hold punch holes around the edges add attached the bells with a ribbon or string. Whistle blowers can be made with straws, sticky tape all the straws together and cut the edges of the straws in an angle and the child can now blow into the straws and listen to the sounds.

Song Cube and Routine Songs – Song cubes is a great game for young children. One each side of the cube you have assorted songs with a picture under the title of the song, for example; Twinkle Twinkle Star you can have a picture of a star underneath the word, for children to point, repeat and connection. You could also add a second cube with action movements to do while singing the song. “Brush Our Teeth” song is a great song for any routine purposes.
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](http://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.

Next Monday the libraries are opening for ‘Click and Collect’ services at Northcote and Reservoir. This will be starting with customers who have current reservations. Our Libraries team will manage the reservations, pack the books up and check them out for the customers to pick them up in the foyer area at an allocated timeslot.

**ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES**

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


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**Darebin Mayor’s Writing Awards for young People**

Calling all young writers of poetry, short story, fiction, fantasy and sci-fi.

As part of the City of Darebin’s Recovery Package, we are pleased to announce the Darebin Mayor’s Writing Awards for Young People. After the success of the much-loved adult’s awards, it was time to celebrate the young voices in our community. For young writers who live or study in the City of Darebin.

There are two categories: primary and secondary school writers. Entries are now open!

If you have a young writer at home, they have one month to show off their writing talents. **Entries close 30 June.**

For more information and entry details go to [darebinarts.com.au](http://darebinarts.com.au) or contact Elizabeth Welch at [writingprojects@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:writingprojects@darebin.vic.gov.au)
COVID 19 Resources and Information

It is vital that all members of community follow the directions of the State Government to keep everyone safe and avoid the spread of COVID-19 throughout the community. To continue to check the latest updates on Victoria’s COVID-19 quarantine restrictions, please refer to https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus. The quarantine restrictions directions are subject to change and it is essential to check for the latest information.

It is important to look after your mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic, if you are feeling anxious or uncertain there are different support services, as follows;

Lifeline Australia – www.lifeline.org.au or call 13 11 14
Beyond Blue – http://coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au/ or call 1800 512 348
Headspace – www.headspace.org.au/eheadspace/ or call 1800 650 893
Mindspot – call 1800 614 434
MensLine – call 1300 789 978
1800Respect – call 1800 737 732 (people impacted by sexual assault, domestic, family violence and abuse).
Directline – call 1800 888 236 (people experiencing drug and alcohol addictions).

◊ Banyule Community Health Services, Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network and Wellways are working together on Yumarrala Ngarrdji – a partnership to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families access the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). (Flyer attached at the end of this newsletter).

◊ “Coming out of Hibernation” by Sophie Bunston follows a journey of an echidna from going into isolation at home, navigating remote learning and transition back to school. The story captures the world around the echidna changing dramatically and feelings.

https://vimeo.com/417583125?ref=fb-share&fbclid=IwAR3DKqPQGIAnO-Rh9sBQBujDxa7MVrldMwaOCDqM-GzhEJRRhKZKSWvXJKg

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
YUMARRALA NGARRDJJI
Give knowledge
ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER NDIS ACCESS PROJECT

Banyule Community Health Services, Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network and Wellways are working together on Yumarrala Ngarrdji – a project that seeks to identify and address the barriers that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities face in accessing the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

We are also interested in producing culturally relevant resources for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community regarding the NDIS. We understand how important it is for community members to have a voice and are therefore seeking community participation in the production of these resources.

Do you have experience with the NDIS? Would you like to be paid for sharing your time and expertise in producing NDIS resources specific to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community? If you answered yes, we want to hear from you! Please call Julio on 0448 107 034 or email jestorminho@wellways.org for more information.

Please note: due to the COVID-19 pandemic our co-production team meetings will be conducted online via Zoom. You must have access to a computer and knowledge of Zoom to participate.

Yumarrala Ngarrdji artwork is by Miranda Leon-Madgwick, Worimi woman.
A free service that supports us mob through the NDIS?

Deadly!

Banyule Community Health Aboriginal Health Team, EACH, EMPHN, Oonah, VAHS and Wellways are working in partnership to support community members access the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Yumarrala Ngardjii is a FREE service that can assist you in applying for funding, developing, renewing or reviewing an NDIS plan, or gaining better value from your existing supports and services.

For more details contact:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aboriginal Health Team</th>
<th>Jamie Baxter</th>
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<td>Wellways</td>
<td>Julio Estorninho</td>
<td>0448 107 034</td>
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