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**

“**Benny’s Big Bubble**”, encourages children to read along, there are images replacing words in the story.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhuAtyKdx3w

“**Fancy Nancy, Bubbles, Bubbles and More Bubbles**”, is a great story for Kindergarten aged children, and focuses on thinking of others.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MW7EPwzKc7U

**SONG OF THE WEEK**

**Blowing Bubbles (with lyrics)**

This is a soft singing soothing song with basic actions for children.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_yuO2Gtqrc
Messy Play in May - Bubble Making & Blowing

Bubble Foam allows children to explore their sensory skills and explore the soft texture of bubbles. Trying to chase, crawl, walk and reach the bubbles to pop them encourages the children’s gross motor physical skills and strengthen their muscles. Blowing bubbles naturally engages children in the fun and excitement of bubbles and stimulates children’s curiosity. Bubble blowing teaches children cause and effect, for example; when dipping the wand stick into the mixture and then blow air into the wand, it creates bubbles. You can be creative with Bubble, here are some ideas;

MAKING DIFFERENT BUBBLE WANDS

You can be creative, for younger children you can use a flysquatter as a bubble wand or tape a handful of straws together, which is easy for a child to hold. For older children they may like to make their bubble wand out of pipe cleaners forming different shapes.

EXPLORING BUBBLES AND BLOWING BUBBLES

You can teach children to practice blowing, by making a paper funnel with a straw and pompoms (or light soft objects) to encourage children’s ability of cause and effect. You could place water, few drops of food colouring and oil in a sealed locked snap bag (you may need to tape the end of the bag for extra protection) and they can explore the making of bubbles and move the bubbles with their fingers.

WHISK BUBBLE MAKING

In a tray, place 6 cups of water, a cup of dish soap and a few drops of food colouring of your child’s choice. With a whisk from the kitchen and off they go, making lots and lots of coloured bubbles. You can also make a rainbow colour bubble foam, for children to explore the texture.

BUBBLE BLOWING ART PIECE

You could get bowls or cups and place water, dish soap and food colouring in them. Children can blow bubbles onto a piece of paper or canvas board. You can place the paper or canvas board on the ground or stand upright on an outside fence.
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.

**Upcoming events:**
20 May - EID story time 10.15am and
27 May - National Simultaneous Storytime

**ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES**


**COVID 19 Resources and Information**

**Easing restrictions on schools** is gradually coming into play, Prep, grade 1, grade 2 and Year 11 and Year 12 Students will commence back at school on Tuesday 26th May, while grade 3 to Year 10 will commence Tuesday 9th June.

Children will be experiencing a number of different emotions and anxiety throughout this pandemic. Children might have mixed emotions about returning back to school, they can be excited, but also a bit sad, they miss their friends, but will miss their family, these are all understandable mixed emotions of children adjusting to changes. It is important to create a safe physical and emotional environment by practicing the 3 **R**’s: Reassurance, Routines and Regulation. **Firstly**, adults should reassure children about their safety and safety of loved ones. **Secondly**, adults need to maintain routines to provide children with a sense of predictability. And **Thirdly**, adults should support children’s development of regulation. When children are stressed, it is important to validate their feelings and encourage them to engage in activities that help them self-regulate. [http://www.sourcekids.com.au](http://www.sourcekids.com.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](http://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

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