Welcome to our Term 3 – 5th Edition of Darebin Community Playgroups Newsletter. The Theme for the month of August is ‘Letters and Numbers’.

**Reading & Singing with your Child**

**BOOK OF THE WEEK**

*Whoever You Are* - by Mem Fox. This book is about children from all over the world and how everyone may look different from the outside, but at the end of the day, everyone is the same on the inside. A beautiful story about cultures and generations.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0J6tKoT53Y

**SONG OF THE WEEK**

*The Alphabet Chant* - by Super Simple. This song includes repetition of the alphabet, encouraging children to sing faster and faster and demonstrates the alphabet with sign language actions. The Alphabet song can be introduced throughout your everyday routine; especially when washing our hands.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEYcmNhz7Uc
Letters and Numbers in August

Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination and explore. Play is important to healthy brain development. It is through play that children at a very early age engage and interact in the world around them. As children, one of the first things we learn is the alphabet and sounds, through story books, songs, rhymes and interactions. Every letter represents a sound in the spoken language, which lets us create words through combinations of the sounds. Learning that there are predictable relationships between sounds and letters allows children to apply these relationships to both familiar and unfamiliar words, and to begin to read with fluency. Please find play activities including numbers and letters below:

Counting Games

Children enjoy using tongs which can be used in counting games. Introducing a tong to your child’s play helps to strengthen eye-hand co-ordination and strengthen fine-motor hand skills.

Using items from around your home, children can match the number of items with the written number. This activity can be extended, by placing items of the same colour and in the same number amount with the written number (e.g. 3 green pom poms in the number 3 cup).


Children are little explorers of nature. Going on a hunt to collect natural materials such as leaves, flowers, grass, sticks and rocks is fun in itself.

However, natural items can also be used as counters or to compose words, names, words, letters and/or numbers.
Telling Stories with Symbols

Symbols teach stories to young children, and have been used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for over 60,000 years.

An Indigenous First Discovery Series was created to help raise awareness of the importance of using Australian Aboriginal symbols to teach stories.

Turning the symbols into flash-cards or painting the symbols on rocks provides the opportunity for discussion about the meaning of the symbols, as well as opportunities to create your own story and learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Darebin Libraries Online Learning Resources

Darebin Libraries Online Digital learning is an available resource that caters for the whole family. The libraries for ‘Click and Collect’ services at Northcote and Reservoir has ceased during this second COVID-19 lockdown, further communications will be provided in the future in accordance with easing of restrictions.

COVID 19 Resources and Information

Due to the growing cases of coronavirus in Victoria the COVID-19 quarantine restrictions directions are subject to change. Please regularly check the latest updates on COVID-19 quarantine restrictions at https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

Masks and Face Coverings

Masks hide part of a person's face. Young children rely on seeing faces to communicate and understand their world. From the time they are babies, young children look at faces for the signals they need to feel safe and secure. When faces are partly hidden by masks, kids can't see the friendly smile or familiar look that usually puts them at ease. When kids can't see the person's whole face, it's harder to feel safe. It's natural to feel scared. But slowly and gently, parents can help kids feel more comfortable with masks and face coverings. Even very young children can learn that something that seemed too scary at first is not so scary after all—provided they are introduced to things gradually and sensitively.

At first, children may feel cautious. They may need a few minutes to look, observe and just watch people. That can help them get used to what's new. They may need a parent to gently say, "It's OK." Simple reassurance can help children to relax. Some babies, toddlers, and young children may feel more upset or afraid than others. They might cry, hide their face, or cling to a parent. Soothing words, comfort, and the safety of a parent's lap can help calm them in such situations.

To assist families to navigate the new requirements for masks and face coverings in public, please find a link to a story “Masks are not Scary”. The book explains to children why people in their community are wearing face masks. Children under 12 years of age are not legally required to wear face masks, however parents and carers may consider using masks for children with medical conditions based on medical advice or their discretion.


Acknowledgment of Country

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather/meet today, and pay respects to their Elders past and present.
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