Acknowledgment of Country - We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people who are the traditional owners and custodians of this land. We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Welcome to our Term 3 – 7th 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

Kindness makes us Strong - by Sophie Beer. A joyful book which shows children that all acts of kindness, (no matter how big or small), help build friendships and make our community stronger.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orX5sqq-ewc

SONG OF THE WEEK

10 in the Bed - by Super Simple Learning. An exciting way to introduce counting and numbers. Children can also gather 10 of their special soft toys to “role play” throughout the song.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdDpyS_5zE
Letters and Numbers in August

A child’s early years are a time of rapid learning and growth. As children, one of the first things we learn is the alphabet and sounds, through story books, songs, rhymes and everyday interactions. Every letter represents a sound in the spoken language, which lets us create words through combinations of the sounds. Shared reading is a powerful way to introduce literacy, even before young children can read. The exposure of reading letters, words and numbers from an early age teaches children the connection between words and their meaning.

By using open-ended questions and repetition while reading stories or during play activities, we can help a child’s vocabulary to increase as well as their knowledge about the world around us. Please find play activities including numbers and letters below:

**Alphabet Connecting Games**

Introducing the alphabet to children in creative ways can help with a child’s engagement with understanding letters. Focusing on a letter and scanning for objects in the environment which contact that letter, can help children to develop their literacy skills.

The Peg Alphabet puzzle, is a great way to match the same alphabet letter and increase fine motor skills at the same time.

**Scavenger Hunts**

Scavenger hunts allow children to practice problem solving skills and reading skills in a tangible way. It provides children the opportunity to explore their surroundings and identify letters of what objects start with or collecting a number of the same object.

Try to be creative! Scavenger hunts are easy to customize to children’s abilities and interests.
Learning with Lego Activities

Incorporating children’s interests can help with the process of learning letters and numbers.

With Lego you can match the number of blocks to the number written down, for example; 2 blocks beside the number 2. Try to fill in the letter or number with lego blocks or print press into playdough – to make assorted letters and numbers.

Lacing Letters Activity

Lacing letters is a great activity for pre-schoolers, enhancing their fine motor skills, while introducing alphabet letters or numbers.

All you need to make your own lacing letter is:

- cardboard
- yarn
- a hole-puncher

Tie a knot on one end of the yarn and your child will be ready to start lacing their letter or number.
Darebin Libraries Online Learning Resources

Sign up for your free Library Membership

Darebin libraries membership gives you access to loads of great online resources for the whole family. Signing up is easy, just fill in the online membership form. Use your temporary ID to access the digital library straight away! You'll find eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital newspapers and magazines, eComics, music and film streaming and more.

https://darebin.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/J

Stay-at-home Storytime

Cosy up with your children and enjoy Storytime with Darebin Libraries! New Storytime sessions are posted on Facebook on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10.15am. You can also re-watch your family favourites. There are readings of some wonderful old and new classic picture books in the video playlist, including Possum Magic, Hairy Maclary’s Rumpus at the Vet, and The Very Cranky Bear. Happy Watching!

https://www.facebook.com/darebinlibraries/
https://www.facebook.com/darebinlibraries/playlist/236882567453300/
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

Australian Childhood Foundation has designed a ‘Peek a Boo’ book to help children understand why adults are wearing masks and to hopefully reduce their fears of face masks. URL address also provided below;


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 you can access. Some if these are listed below;

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

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