

# It's Book Week!

To celebrate we will be sharing some of our favourite stories with you this week.

## **Busy Beaks**

To start us off this Madi has read for you one of the books on the shortlist for Book of the Year (Early Childhood)- Busy Beaks by Sarah Allen.

You can find more information about CBCA Book of the Year and Book Week here:

<https://cbca.org.au/shortlist-2021>

### **Some things you could think about doing today or this week:**

Have you noticed that different birds have different shaped beaks? Have you ever wondered why? Maybe you could do some research using a bird identification book if you have one, or online.

The children love to spot and identify the birds that visit the yard at preschool. Why not take your lunch outside or sit quietly in your garden and count how many birds you can see while you are there. Do you know what they are? Do some numeracy by tallying up how many of each you see. We do this during the Backyard Bird Count at preschool each year- it's lots of fun!

Listen to the Noisy by Nature podcast- including this episode about laughing kookaburras:

<https://www.abc.net.au/.../laughing-kookaburras/13334978>

### **What's your favourite story?**

## **The Magic Hat**

Here's the next favourite story as we continue to celebrate Book Week: The Magic Hat by Mem Fox.

Join in with Jade as she reads the story, using rhyme as a clue to who the hat is going to land on next.

If a magic hat landed on you what would you like to turn into?

Make your own magic hat: use paper or card to make a band to fit around your head, then decorate with anything and everything. I think I might put leaves that blew out of my trees yesterday on mine.

We would love to see photos of you wearing your beautiful hats!

## **Possum Magic**

Today Heidi is sharing one of her favourite stories- Possum Magic by Mem Fox and Julie Vivas.

Have you been to any of the same places as Hush and Grandma Poss? Maybe you could find the places they or you went on a map of Australia.

Being invisible is a bit like a superpower- it kept Hush safe from snakes! If you had a superpower, what would it be? You could draw yourself using your superpower, or even dress up!

Make some invisible art: draw a picture or write your name with a white crayon or candle, then paint over the top with very diluted paint or a couple of drops of food colouring in water, to reveal your picture!

## The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Today Hannah is sharing one of her favourite stories- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle.

There is so much opportunity for learning with this story, and when we read it at preschool we often focus on maths, such as counting how many of each fruit and using language such as 'more' and 'less'. It is also a great starting point from which to discuss everyday and 'sometimes' foods, life cycles and days of the week. Also, the repetition within the story allows children to help you 'read' it.

Have a wander around you garden or the park- what little critters can you find? Are there any caterpillars or butterflies? What do you think they like to eat?

If you're feeling crafty today and have an egg carton you could make your own caterpillar! Decorate with paint, googly eyes, or anything else you have at home. What does your caterpillar like to eat? Maybe you could make up your own story for your very hungry caterpillar.



## Hensworth

Something exciting has been happening at Nichole's house! There are two episodes to watch of the Hensworth the chicken story. We'd love to hear about things that have been happening at your house too!

## Fine motor skills

Each week we are sharing some ideas for families to use at home to support your child's school readiness skills.

This week's school readiness focus is **fine motor**.

Things you can do at home to support your child's hand strength and dexterity in view of holding and using writing tools effectively when they go to school include:

Involve your child in meal preparation- they can cut or snip ingredients, whisk or knead.

Craft, particularly cutting and pasting, is great for developing hand strength and fine motor control. Draw shapes for your child to cut out or encourage them to do it freehand. Provide a variety of materials for your child to explore.


Encourage your child to be independent when opening food containers, such as screw tops or zip lock bags. Practice opening the containers they bring to preschool and will take to school.

Completing mazes support's a child's visual perception as well as well as fine motor skill in following the route with their pencil.

And, of course, playdough- a staple of our preschool program and something that is easy to make at home with children. You can provide your child with anything you can find around the house to use with the playdough, such as scissors, bottle tops, pipe cleaners, seed pods, sticks, leaver and small toys such as dinosaurs. You can add colour and scents too, or just leave it as it is. Rolling, stamping, squashing and pinching all support finger strength and dexterity.

You'll find below our favourite playdough recipe that we use when we make it with the children at preschool, as well as photo visuals you can use to support your child's involvement in making it at home. Don't have the right ingredients? Experiment! We've made some great concoctions when we've run out of something!

We'd love to see your playdough creations!



## Playdough Recipe

- 2 cups of flour
- 1 cup of salt
- 3 tbsps of Cream of Tartar
- 2 tbsps of Oil
- Food colouring or Natural Dyes
- 2 cups of boiling water
- A large glass bowl & spoon

**Here's How:**

1. Place dry ingredients into the bowl
2. Add wet ingredients and stir.
3. Knead until smooth

Natural colours & scents are optional, but may include cacao, cinnamon, turmeric, paprika, rosemary or other herbs.

This is a great activity for maths concepts such as measuring and processes as well as science concepts of matter changing shape.  
It promotes motor and sensory development, such as finger strength and dexterity, touch, body awareness and smell.  
It also provides opportunity for listening, turn taking and waiting, learning about safety in the kitchen

• HAVE FUN, EXPERIMENT and ENJOY ☺



