Hooray! There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Having a Birthday Party Hazel Edwards and Deborah Niland



Play is the most powerful way young children learn.

Every time you play, sing or read with young children they are learning about language.

The following activities have been designed for early childhood professionals to use as a starting point for developing children's early literacy skills through play.

Please feel free to adapt them for the home and with children of different ages.

Don't forget to record your own ideas, activities that worked really well, relevant songs and rhymes in the Notes section opposite.

Visit our website <u>www.thelittlebigbookclub.com</u> for more fun printable activities based on this book.

Engaging with Language and Literacy

Our favourite hippo is back to celebrate his 30th birthday with a brand-new book! Join him and his friends for a jungle-inspired celebration full of games and lots of jungle-party treats!

Set the scene for the story by:

- Decorating the reading corner with some balloons.
- Wearing a party hat.
- Decorate a box with birthday wrapping paper and have the book or an invitation inside.

Stories can help stimulate children's imagination and creativity. You can encourage this by providing planned opportunities for meaningful questions and discussions. Try some of the following:

Open-ended questions:

This story gives some great opportunities to pose interesting questions to the children.

Open-ended questions encourage children to think deeply about their response, rather than just a reactive yes or no.

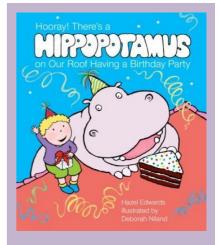
Interesting questions encourage children to use their imagination and think creatively.

Try some of the following questions:

- What would you do if you found a hippopotamus on your roof?
- Would a hippopotamus make a good pet?
- If you did have a hippopotamus as a pet, what would be some of the fun things you could do together?
- What would be some of the problems if you had a hippo as a pet?
- Try and describe a hippo to someone who has never seen one, not even a picture. Think about its size, colour and other features.

Problem Solving:

Imagine you had to live on your roof for 3 days!
 Draw all of the things you would need for 3 days on the roof.



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Page 1 of 3



For more book suggestions, information and activity sheets visit www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au

The information within this resource file is provided by The Little Big Book Club. Enquiries to Leanne Williams: leanne.williams@tbbcinc.com.au The Vegemite Little Aussie Reader is a project developed in partnership with The Little Big Book Club and Kraft Foods. The Little Big Book Club is known as *The Advertiser* Little Big Book Club in South Australia and *The Courier-Mail* Little Big Book Club in Queensland and *The Daily Telegraph* Little Big Book Club in New South Wales.

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4&b YEARS

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Stories can help children to cope with new experiences and feelings. The books in the Hippo series look at many themes including starting school, going on holiday, going to hospital and the arrival of a new baby. After reading stories you can encourage children to share their feelings by asking:

- When was the last time you felt...?
- What made you feel...?
- What did you do about it?
- What other things made you feel...?

Letter Writing Centre

- Set up an area where children can make invitations and cards or write letters.
- Provide a variety of paper, envelopes and writing tools.
- Photocopies of passport sized photos of the children are a great way for children to address envelopes to each other.
- Provide the children's names on laminated card so they can try writing to each other.
- Turn a large box into a letter box so the children can post their letters
- At the end of the day choose someone to 'deliver' the mail.

Enjoying Imaginative Play

"Imagination is more important than knowledge..."

Albert Einstein

Sandpit Cooking

- Encourage the children to make birthday cakes and other party food in the sandpit.
- Ask parents to donate unwanted cake tins, muffin trays, wooden spoons, plastic mixing bowls, measuring cups and sifters. Your local second hand store or two dollar shops are also a good source for cheap kitchen utensils.
- Make an oven out of a large cardboard box.
- Encourage the children to use natural objects, for example, gumnuts, leaves and twigs to decorate their cakes.

Birthday Parties

- Provide props in the home corner so children can pretend to have their own birthday parties.
- Props you might like to use can include:
 - Paper and pencils for making invitations and cards.
 - Old boxes, wrapping paper and sticky tape for making presents.
 - Tea sets, party hats and dress ups.

More Books By Hazel Edwards:

There's A Hippopotamus On Our Roof Eating Cake

My Hippopotamus is on Our Caravan Roof Getting Sunburnt

Look, There's a Hippopotamus in the Playground Eating Cake

Guess What? There's a Hippopotamus on the Hospital Roof Eating Cake

Hey Hippopotamus, Do Babies Eat Cake Too?

Useful Websites and Links:

For Printable Activities:

www.thelittlebigbookclub.com

For Hippo themed party invitations and games:

www.puffin.com.au/hippo

Page 2 of 3



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Exploring Our World

Animal Safari

- Most young children are fascinated by animals, especially exotic ones!
- Hide jungle animal figures for the children to find. You can make a
 pair of binoculars out of two cardboard cylinders to add excitement to
 the activity.
- Let children cut out pictures of animals from old magazines, calendars etc... (or print out images from the internet).
 Glue each animal picture onto its own piece of paper or card. Ask the children what they know about each animal and write their ideas under the picture. These can then be added to over time.
- Use information books to find out about animals that live in the jungle.
- Read Imagine by Alison Lester.

Hooray! It's A Birthday

- Make a calendar of the children's birthdays.
- Some fun books about birthdays include:
 - Night Noises by Mem Fox
 - o I Love Birthdays by Anna Walker
 - Spot's Birthday Party by Eric Carle
 - Happy Birthday Maisy by Lucy Cousins
 - o Charlie and Lola This Is Actually My Party by Lauren Child
- Plan a Jungle Party
 - Plan a party and invite parents, other children or toys from home
 - The book is full of lots of great ideas and starting points.
 - Encourage the children to remember the story and refer to the book when you are planning your party.
 - Make invitations, decorations, costumes and masks.
 - O What jungle themed food could you make?

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Page 3 of 3



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