

## 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 [www.thelittlebigbookclub.com](http://www.thelittlebigbookclub.com) 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.

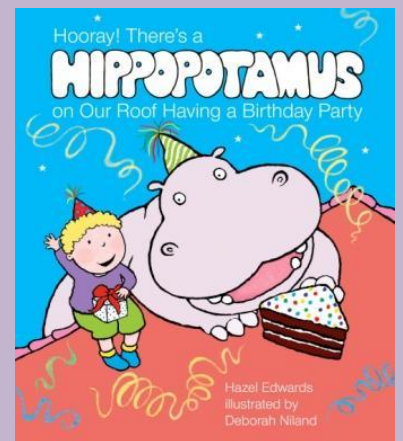
Interesting questions encourage children to use their imagination and think creatively.

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.



## Hooray! There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Having a Birthday Party

Hazel Edwards and Deborah Niland

### Notes

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