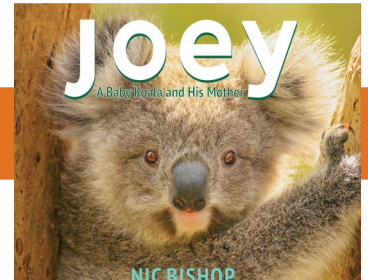
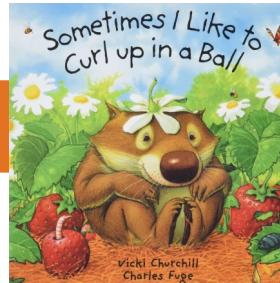
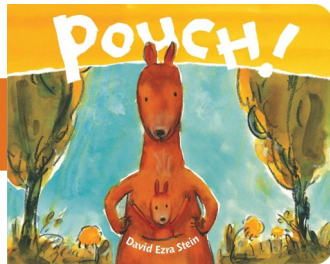


# TAKE-HOME FUN!

Early Literacy Tips, Activities & More



## tales' tip

"When we encourage children to play pretend games—such as imitating wild animals—then we promote the type of symbolic thinking that lays the foundation for learning how to read and comprehend more abstract concepts."

**Ellen Galinsky, Mind in the Making: Prescriptions for Learning**

## activity

Make an Indigenous Australian rain stick instrument! Use rubber bands to hold a cupcake liner over one end of a paper towel tube. Twist several pipe cleaners into spirals and put in the other end along with beans, pasta, beads, or rice. Seal with another cupcake liner and rubber bands. Slowly tilt to hear the "rain!" Encourage your child to decorate their rain stick with crayons, markers, or stickers to make it special.

## digital fun

Watch the [platypus cam](#) from the San Diego Zoo to see if you can spot the only two platypuses that live outside of Australia!

Or take a peek at their [koala cam](#)

## READ

### Over in Australia

By Marianne Berkes

### One Day On Our Blue Planet: In the Outback

By Ella Bailey

### Noni the Pony Rescues a Joey

By Alison Lester

## PLAY

Play pretend like a kangaroo! Have your child wear a sweater with a pocket, or a bag over their belly. Let them choose a favorite toy to be their "joey" to care for as they hop through the day!

## TALK

Talk about different animals in the Outback. How are they similar to animals they see locally? How are they different?

## SING

### Here We Go Jumping

(Tune: Looby Loo)

Here we go jumping high,  
Here we go jumping low.  
Here we go jumping all around,  
That's how a kangaroo goes.  
Here we go jumping fast,  
Here we go jumping slow.  
Here we go jumping everywhere,  
That's how a kangaroo goes.

## WRITE

Create or print an outline drawing for your child. Have them fill it in with dots like an Indigenous Australian dot painting. Use Q-tips or fingers, and have a variety of paint colors. Try it with dot markers or dyed shaving cream for extra fun!