

Excited Explorers: All about us

# By Children and Families from the Picture Book Program

Busy in our garden homes.

Look close and you will see,

Wriggling…

Buzzing…

Sliding…

Spinning…

Can you guess who we might be?

# The natural environment provides an endless source of wonder for young children. The opportunity to explore and discover these surroundings will ignite their curiosity and create a solid connection to the world in which we live.The excited explorers who made this book

* Aarav and Ritika
* Abigail-Susan and Betty
* Adhit and Deepa
* Akanksha and Anu
* Bhavika and Gayathri
* Dhruv and Nivedita
* Havya and Swapna
* Ishaan and Neelam
* Ishika and Srilakshmi
* Judith-Anne and Betty
* Mustafa and Amna
* Rakshita and Nidhi
* Reesha and Komal
* Reeti and Deepshikha
* Rithika and Reshma
* Rohan and Leela
* Samyuktha and Susmitha
* Shayna and Saloni
* Sunniva and Ambalika
* Vihaan and Neha

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### About this project

The Picture Book Program 2015 is a partnership between two branches of the City Communities Group within the City of Melbourne – Community Services (Family Services) and Arts Melbourne (ArtPlay). The program is designed to engage families from within the municipality. It aims to encourage an awareness and enjoyment of literacy and the creative process, in a fun and supportive environment.

The illustrations, text, and music in this book were created by the attending families, using everyday materials, curiosity, and experimentation. The result is a book and a song to be enjoyed again and again.

## Family Services

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## ArtPlay

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Graphic Designer:Kathy Holowko

The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) peoples of the Kulin Nation and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.

In the treetops overhead,

Spinning strands of silken thread.

Catching flies so patiently

Eight long legs...

Who can I be?

A SPIDER of course!

Wriggle, wriggle, to and fro.

Through the soft brown earth I go.

The garden is the place for me.

Long and pink...

Who can I be?

A WORM of course!

My hive has honey, warm and sweet.

A place where all the workers meet

Buzzing by so busily

Yellow stripes...

Who can I be?

A BEE of course!

Smooth and slow, smooth and slow

Down the garden wall I go.

I take my house along with me.

Slimy trail...

Who can I be?

A SNAIL of course!

A place to rest, a place to play

Our home is cosy, night and day.

Two ears to hear, two eyes to see,

Two legs to stand...

Who can WE be?

It’s us of course!

We all live in different homes but we all share the same home: Planet Earth

# Activities

### Leaf Rubbings

### An activity exploring patterns

### You will need:

* Any thin sheet of paper
* Crayons or oil pastels
* Real leaves
* To encourage and support your child to take the lead

### Instructions:

Collect leaves of various shapes and sizes from the outdoors.

Place a leaf bottom-side facing up on a flat surface.

Put a thin sheet of paper on top of the leaf.

Rub the side of a crayon or an oil pastel gently on the area over the leaf.

Observe as part of the leaf shape starts to appear.

Continue until you’ve rubbed over the entire leaf.

Remove the leaf from under the paper.

Repeat using other colours and other leaf shapes.

You can also overlap the rubbings to create a leaf print collage.

### Exploring Tip

Take your paper and crayon outside. What other textures can you use to make a rubbing?

## Earth Mandalas

### You will need:

* A container that your child can easily hold and carry
* Different coloured and sized leaves, sticks, flowers, rocks and seed pods
* To encourage and support your child to take the lead

### Instructions:

Gather any natural objects that appeal to you. Once you have enough items, take the time to consider which ones to choose and where to place them in a circular pattern on a flat spot. Start your circle in an area which will allow your art work to grow over time. The act of mindfully walking in and out of the circle and placing the objects in a circular pattern helps children to focus into a quiet, relaxed state while they connect with the creative parts of their brains and themselves.

### **Exploring Tip**

**Scavenger hunts help develop all of the five senses that children need to grow: sound, smell, touch, sight and taste.**

# **Songs with Actions**

## **An activity to explore movement and sound**

### SPIDER

The incy wincy spider climbed up the water spout.

(Alternately touch the thumb of one hand to the index

finger of the other and “walk” the spider up.)

Down came the rain and washed the spider out.

(Wiggle your fingers down in front of you, simulating

rain and then sweep your hands out.)

Out came the sun and dried up all the rain,

(Make a big circle over your head with your arms,

simulating the sun.)

And the incy wincy spider climbed up the spout again.

(Left thumb to right index finger, right thumb to left

index finger and “walk” the spider up.)

### WORM

A tiny, tiny worm

(Wiggle index finger like a worm.)

Wiggled along like this,

Without a sound.

It came to a tiny hole.

(Make circle with your

thumb and index finger.)

A tiny hole in the ground.

It wiggled right inside

Without a sound.

(Wiggle finger up baby’s arm and tickle.)

### BEE

Here is the beehive.

Where are the bees?

(Hold up fist.)

Hidden away,

where nobody sees.

(Move other hand around fist.)

Watch and you’ll see them

come out of the hive.

(Bend head close to fist.)

One, two, three, four, five.

(Hold fingers up one at a time.)

Bzzzzzzzz… all fly away!

(Wave fingers.)

### SNAIL

Slowly, slowly, very slowly goes the garden snail.

(With thumb and pointer finger, slowly climb up your child’s arm or leg.)

Slowly, slowly, very slowly up the garden trail.

(Start climbing up again.)

Quickly, quickly, very quickly goes the little mouse!

(With thumb and pointer finger, quickly climb up your child’s arm or leg.)

Quickly, quickly, very quickly up into her house!

(Start climbing up again and with all your fingers tickle up child’s body.)

### HOME

Build a house with five bricks,

One, two, three, four, five. (Fists on top of one another.)

Put a roof on top (Raise both arms above head with fingers touching.)

And a chimney too, (Straighten arms.)

Where the wind blows through...

WHOO! WHOOOO! (Blow hard or whistle.)

### Exploring Tip

Try these songs with your children and share them with a friend.