

Curious creatures all about us

# By Children and Families from the Picture Book Program

“A possum went to playgroup and what do you think she saw?

Lots of children mixing – swish, swish, swish.”

A lively exploration of what young children like to do at playgroup.

# Curiosity is essential for a child’s development. In Curious Creatures children have the space and time to be curious and to play as they discover what they can create with everyday objects. Curiosity feeds the imagination!

# Look for the other books in the All About Us series.

# THE CURIOUS CREATURES WHO MADE THIS BOOK

* Abdullah Abdu-Ellahi
* Mohamed Abdu-Ellahi
* Abdulrahman Ahmed
* Tahir Ahmed
* Abdullahi Abdullahi
* Anwar Isak
* Mohamed Isak
* Amran Anwar
* Dunya Abdelhay
* Abdirahman Isse
* Daniel Grima
* Bilaal Ali
* Abdirahman Ali
* Faris Nor
* Fadi Nor
* Mohamed Idris
* Reem Idris
* Jasmine Ingram
* Nawal Isse
* Salma Ali
* Layan Aden
* Abdirahman Aden
* Yusuf Abdiqadir
* Ameera Hussein
* Eyosiyos Shumy
* Zarhia Rahu

Curious Creatures – All about us

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### First published May 2015

### ISBN 978-1-74250-963-1

### 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

Literacy Project Facilitator: Tamara Hrabric-Krajcar

Parenting Group Facilitators: Vanessa O’Toole and Khadra Omar

Consulting Author: Maura Finn

## ArtPlay

Program Manager:Stephane Urruty

Artist: Reeham Hakem

Support Artist: Annasophia Larsen

Graphic Designer:Kathy Holowko

Volunteers: Emmily Caspi & Jasmine Carl

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.

# Curious Creatures

A possum went to playgroup

and what do you think she saw?

Lots of children mixing

Swish, swish, swish

An emu went to playgroup

And what do you think he saw?

Lots of children cutting

Snip, snip, snip

A wombat went to playgroup

And what do you think she saw?

Lots of children listening

Shake, shake, shake

A bilby went to playgroup

And what do you think he saw?

Lots of children weaving

Up, down, through.

A penguin went to playgroup

And what do you think she saw?

Everybody dancing, jumping, laughing

Wiggle, wiggle

Bounce, bounce

Ha, ha, ha!

# Activities

## Mess-free Finger Painting - An activity in mixing colors

### You will need:

* 1 Ziploc bag
* Paints
* Sticky tape

### Instructions:

• Squirt 1 or 2 colors of paint in a Ziploc bag and seal the bag firmly.

• Use sticky tape along the Ziploc bag’s edges to stick it on a table, window or any surface of your choice.

• Move your fingers along the outside of the Ziploc bag to mix the paint inside it.

• Have fun mixing the paints together and drawing in patterns using your fingers and hands!

• Remember to keep the bag tightly closed so that no paint comes out!

Curious Tip: What happens when you mix two or more colours together?

## Sticky Window Art - An activity for a rainy day

### You will need:

* Clear contact paper
* Sticky tape
* Coloured cellophane
* Cotton balls
* Popsicle sticks
* Coloured paper

### Instructions:

• Cut out a large sheet of the clear sticky contact paper.

• Use tape on the corners to stick the contact sheet firmly to the window, having the sticky side facing you.

• Enjoy sticking coloured cellophane, pompoms, popsicle sticks and other objects you might find around you!

• Once you have finished, you can peel the objects off and start again!

Curious Tip: Which objects stick best on the contact sheet?

## Homemade Shaker Instruments – an activity in making sound

### You will need:

* 2 plastic cups
* Sticky tape
* Buttons
* Shells
* Jingle bells
* Leaves

### Instructions:

* Fill one plastic cup halfway full with buttons, bells, shells, leaves or any other objects that make noise when shaken inside a container. Try experimenting with different sounds before you make your choice!
* Join the tops of the two cups together and firmly tape along the edge.
* Decorate the shaker using stickers, colored paper, glitter or paint!

Curious Tip: How different is the sound that each object makes?

## Branch Weaving - an activity to explore the outdoors

### You will need:

* 3 to 4 branch sticks
* Woolen string
* Sticky tape
* Feathers
* Flowers
* Leaves

### Instructions:

* Collect 3 to 4 branch sticks. You can get them from your garden, backyard or the nearest park!
* Use tape to stick the branch sticks to each other to make a frame of any shape such as a triangle or a square.
* Start weaving the woolen string from one corner to the other. You can have someone help by holding the frame while you weave up and down.
* Once you have finished with the weaving, you can add other natural objects you might find outdoors, such as flowers, leaves and feathers!

Curious Tip:What else can you find outdoors that you can make art with?