

# Wombat Stew

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During term 2 we will be reading and sharing the book **“Wombat Stew”** with the children in the preschool.

Reading books provides excellent opportunities to develop language & literacy skills. When we read & share books with children we provide opportunities for children to learn about:

- New ‘interesting’ words (some that we do not typically hear & use in our everyday conversational talking)
- Grammar and Story structures
- Concepts of Print (e.g. the direction we read a book, letters)
- Phonological (sound) Awareness (e.g. syllables, rhyme, first sounds)

Books also provide an excellent opportunity to have ‘back and forth’ conversations with children (for example, we can relate the story to something they have done in the past e.g. ‘we saw a wombat when we visited the zoo – *remember.....*; ‘I wonder if what else you saw at the zoo?’ **or** relate a word in the story to something they have experienced e.g. ‘goeey’ – “when we played with the slime it felt sticky and goeey”).

During term 2, we will use the story **“Wombat Stew”** in different ways to teach vocabulary (‘words’), for example:

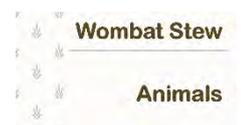
- Reading the story
- Re-telling the story with pictures
- Explicitly teaching vocabulary ‘words’ from the story using ‘hands on’ activities, demonstrations, video clips and pictures.
- Describing activities (e.g. describing animals)
- Opportunities for the children to retell the story (e.g. Story table with objects, story wall with pictures).

If you do not have a copy of this book, the following is a link to the story being read:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZkBAwvHZV8>

One of our initial focuses will be on the on the **‘Animal’ names** in the story, learning about where the animals live, how they move, describing the animals and listening to the sounds & syllables in the animals names (e.g. ‘kan-ga-roo’). ***Attached are some activities you can complete with your child at home as we learn about the animals in the story:***

1. **Animal Vocabulary PowerPoint book:** Look through this with your child. Name the animals (e.g. ‘wombat’), talk about what the animals look like, how they move & where they live (e.g. *“wombats have fur, a wombat is a short animal, wombats have four short legs, a large nose, two eyes, sharp claws. They have a pouch to carry their babies (joeys) and they dig / burrow into the ground and they can run and walk”*). Say the animal names and clap / tap out the syllables in the animals names with your child (e.g. ‘wom-bat’, ‘din-go’, ‘e-chid-na’).



2. **Animal Matching Game:** Use the attached small animal pictures. Leave one page as a whole picture board. Cut out the second page of small animal pictures to make picture cards. With your child match the pictures to the picture board. Name the animals and talk about the pictures as you do this. You could also cut

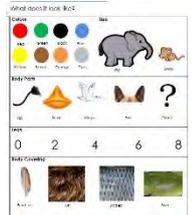


out two copies of the small animal pictures and make a memory card matching game.

3. **Look & Find Game:** Use the attached “I found...” Large animal picture cards. Hide these pictures around a room / garden and then with your child use the “I found...” list to look for the animals and put a tick in the box as you find the animals. Talk about the name of the animal that was found and where you found it (e.g. “The wombat was under the swing”, “the kangaroo was on the table”).



4. **Describing Animals:** Use the attached ‘describing animals’ chart to describe the animals with your child (e.g. “The emu is an Australian animal. It has 2 long legs, a beak, it’s covered in feathers, it can walk and run”).



You could also play a ‘guess who’ game with your child. Take turns to describe the animals and guess what the animals are (e.g. “this animal lives in the zoo or jungle. It is big & grey. It has 4 legs, a long trunk, big ears & a tail. It can walk & run. It makes a trumpeting sound. What is it?”).

5. **Animal Songs:** Here are some animal songs you can sing with your child:

- ❖ **Wombat Wobble:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3jllzkr0s>
- ❖ **D-I-N-G-O:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ngom9dgvUIU>

Here are some links to short video clips about the different animals: As you watch the videos you could pause them and **talk with your child about what you are watching** (e.g. “look at the koala eating the leaves”, “the wombat is digging a burrow”, “look at the emu’s long legs”, “I wonder what the Koala eats?”).

- **Wombat:** <https://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/2520856/day-in-the-life-of-a-wombat>
- **Wombat yelling:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KI3yRXFq76M&list=RDCMUCXEA-bmkdoOnx-YnzjNLDsQ&index=14>
- **Wombat Joey (Australia Zoo):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QUJNGKu7Cw>
- **Koala in a tree:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIKpgWMVzBw>
- **Platypus:** <https://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/155146/observing-a-platypus>
- **Emus (with Dr. Dave):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4I8LYR4e1o>
- **Echidna (at the zoo):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rkjHrFwc3M&list=RDCMUCB4RSGRBhM670UlcG-oCxeA&index=33>
- **Kookaburra (at the zoo):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fc-icFHwQo>
- **Australia Zoo:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YBRu5JFHmw>

- ❖ **YOU will need to watch these videos with your child / supervise the videos as the YouTube videos will keep running after they finish on to other unknown videos.**