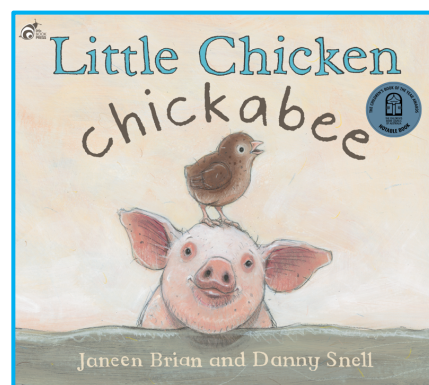


LEARNING TIME

Little Chicken Chickabee By Janeen Brian and Danny Snell

Little Chicken Chickabee does not want to “cheep” like the other chicks. This endearing little non-conformist is bound to win the hearts of her readers! The wonderfully heart-warming story of friendship and acceptance is created by a South Australian award winning team - Janeen Brian and Danny Snell.



Key Message for Parents | The best learning happens in nurturing relationships

Relationships are at the centre of early childhood development. Children’s relationships shape the way they see themselves and the world around them. Nurturing relationships in the early years lay the foundation for many developmental outcomes and are the key to life-long social and emotional health and wellbeing.

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

We can help young children build a strong sense of their identity when

- Children feel safe and supported. This can be by providing a welcoming and friendly environment, which promotes respectful and loving relationships.
- Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities. This can be through listening, responding and encouraging a ‘child’s voice’ during group or story time, and discussions.
- Children learn to interact with others with care, empathy and respect. We can model this in our own interactions with others as well as by providing opportunities to do so through songs and group games during story time sessions.

Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

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Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

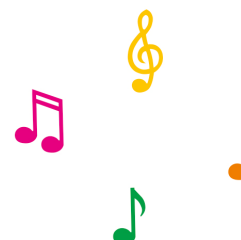
Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

and welcome to you!



Song

Welcome everyone! – You are going to love today's story, it is called Little Chicken Chickabee and it is written by Janeen Brian and illustrated by Danny Snell. As it is about a chicken we are going to stand up and do the chicken dance!

The Chicken Dance is a fun action song that everyone will enjoy. Before you play the music, teach the children the following actions

Each action is repeated **3** times

- 1- Fingers and thumbs open and close like a beak
- 2- Make wings with your arms bent, tucked into armpit
- 3- Twist body with arms in wing position
- 4- Clap three times

For the "polka part" of the song, link arms with a friend and skip around the room, or just dance freely.

The music signals the change back to the main actions again.

Music and actions on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l5slspLfmXM>

Before Reading

Spend a few moments 'getting the wiggles out', sitting comfortably, and becoming quiet and focused. You might like to change the tone of your voice, using a softer voice which will signal that it is time to listen.

Always explore the front cover, end papers and title page before you begin the story. *Let's look at the front cover – what can you see?* Introduce the author and illustrator and use these correct terms as children will soon learn this terminology and begin to use it themselves.

During Reading

Use questions to engage and prompt listeners; *“How do you think this character is feeling?” “Why is she looking sad?”* By doing this we are asking listeners to help ‘read the pictures’, developing language and visual literacy skills.

Use your voice to bring the story alive! Change the volume, the pitch, and have fun. In Little Chicken Chickabee there is lots of opportunity to create different animal voices. If your listeners see you enjoying the story, they will enjoy it too.

Encourage listeners to help tell the story too. When little chicken Chickabee meets each animal, pause and see if children know what she will say and help say “Chickabee” with you too!

After Reading

After you have read the story encourage your listeners to share their thoughts and feelings about the story in a group discussion time.

You might ask *What was your favourite part of the story?* or *Who was your favourite character? Who has visited a farm before and what animals did you see or touch?*

Song

Choose some of the animals from the Chickabee story and talk about the sounds they make, then sing Old Macdonald had a Farm.

Extension Ideas

There are lots of themes that can be explored further after reading the story. These include:

- Janeen Brian’s playful language could inspire a word game. What would little Chicken Chickabee say to a cow, and horse, and mouse?
- Learn some names for baby animals. Can you match the calf to the cow, or the foal to the horse or the lamb to the sheep?
- Set up a farm scene on a big table, complete with animals
- Play a farm animal matching game, or farm snap
- Sing **I went to visit a farm one day**

I went to visit a farm one day

I saw some sheep along the way

And what do you think I heard them say?

Baaa...baa... baaa

Repeat with different farm animals suggested by the children

STEM Focus (delete if not required)

Many children are fascinated by animals which is the study of Zoology and directly links to STEM. Talk about how we have animals for lots of different reasons, such as pets, farm, zoo or wild animals. Do the children have any pets? Or have they lived on or near a farm? You may want to provide some information to extend the Chickabee story:

- Lifecycle of egg to chicken
- Lifecycle of other animals, such as tadpoles to frogs, or caterpillars to butterflies
- Caring for animals – where do they live, what do they eat, what noises do they make
- What types of covering do different animals have? Skin, scales, feathers or fur? Why?

Follow the children's lead with the discussions.

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Wendy** by Gus Gordon
- **Samuel's Kisses** by Karen Collum and Serena Geddes
- **The Runaway Hug** by Nick Bland and Freya Blackwood
- **When No-one's Looking on the Farm** by Zana Fraillon and Lucia Masciullo

An Activity Time for *Little Chicken Chickabee* is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush) or your preferred choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action) Say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye

To all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!