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early childhood consultant, trainer, educator

Drama and puppetry.
Simple & engaging group experiences
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City of KINGSTON



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M.Ed, B.Teach, Ass Dip.CC
Trained in dance/drama/voice

Aboriginal people have telling stories and dancing with children for the past 60,000+ years.

The brain's ability to change in response to experiences is highest at birth. The period between birth and 8 years of age is critical for achieving cognitive milestones. (VEYLDF, 2026)

Draw the children to you

- Use your eyes
- Vary your tone, pitch & volume
- Use body language
- Don't be cutesy
- Be real and authentic



Repeat Repeat and Repeat
'Experience wires the brain. Repetition strengthens the wiring"
(Schiller, 2009)

Using rhyme rhythm and repetition is important for brain development and helps children develop literacy skills (Dorrat & Semann, 2025).

Literacy incorporates a range of modes of communication including music, movement, dance, storytelling, visual arts, media and drama, as well as talking, listening, viewing, composing, reading and writing. (EYLF, V.2.0, 2022, P. 57)

An Acknowledgement of country

Thankyou Boonwurrung people for caring for this land.
Aboriginal people here since time began.
Caring for Country, Land, sky and waterways
Thank you Elders for where we learn and play

Louise Dorrat, supported by Annette Sax
(Taururung woman – Yarn Strong Sista)

1. How Do You Do?
How do you do-ti-do-ti-do-ti-do
How do you do to-day?
It's so nice to see you all
to have a sing and a play.
I look forward to Kinder on Mondays
Just to here you say
How do you do ti-do-ti-do
How do you do today?

2. Bumble bee
Bumble bee bumble bee
Can you sing your name to me?

3. Old Joan Muddlecomb
Old Joan Muddlecomb lost her hat
She looked everywhere, this way and that.
She walked down High St and everybody said
"Silly Joan Muddlecomb, you've got it on your head

4. Roly Poly
Roly Poly Roly Up Up Up
Roly Poly Poly poly Down Down Down
Roly Poly Roly Poly Out Out Out
Roly Poly Roly Poly In In In

5 Rat-a tat-tat.
Rat-a-tat-tat. Who is that?
Only Grandma's pussy cat.
What do you want? A pint of milk
Where's your money? In my pocket.
Where's your pocket? I forgot it.
Oh you silly pussy cat

6. Black socks.
Black socks they never get dirty
The longer you wear them the stronger they get.
Just when I thought I should wash them a voice deep inside me said “Don’t wash them yet”
- not yet, not yet, not yet.

7.Two Large Bunjils (creator spirit)
Use the names of the children
Two Large Bunjils Flying to *Broadmeadows*
One named *Nargra*, One named *Iluka*
Fly away *Nargra*, Fly away *Iluka*
Come back *Nargra*, come back Iluka

8. I have 10 Fingers
I have 10 little fingers, they all belong to me
I can make them do things, would you like to see?
I can shut them up tight and open them up wide
I can clap them together and make them hide
I can put them up high, I can make them down low
I can fold them like this and I can fold them so
(from koorie activities booklet)

TRANSITIONS and FAREWELLS

9. If you’re wearing stripes If you’re wearing stripes
You can go and wash your hands
If you’re wearing stripes
(to the tune of farmer’s in the dell)

Farewell

10. Let your hands so loudly clap clap clap
Let your fingers loudly snap snap snap
Close your eyes, fold your arms and quiet be
Let your eyes so wide awake
Let your fingers shake shake shake
Touch your nose touch your cheek.
Wave goodbye see you next week

Stories in boxes

Choose your favourite story and memorise it. Find simple, natural props and a box.
For example; Dear Zoo, Where is the green sheep? Who sank the boat? Peace at last, Big Hungry Bear,

A prop is just an item HOWEVER it is such a useful technique to

- relax the child
- assist the child in experiencing the character’s feelings.

Props assist with ‘embodied pedagogy’
The act of embodiment takes the child to the place faster.
The use of props not only gives the character
purpose but also ***enhances*** the drama. (Sinclair, 2014)

Puppets fascinate and involve children in a way that few other art forms can. They allow children to ***enter the world*** of ***fantasy and drama*** so easily. Children can be transported to a safe place instantly… they can become anything or anyone at that particular time. (Louise Dorrat)

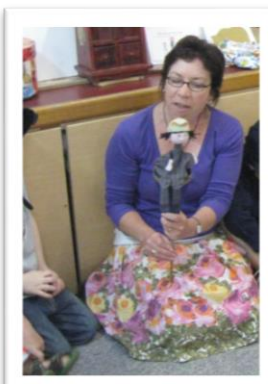
Resources

-Picture book and puppets - *I am me you are you* (Dorrat, Semann, 2025)
https://iammeyouareyou.com/

Indigenous Resources
http://www.yarnstrongsista.com/







Article for ABC kids.
Louise demonstrating the songs and stories. Scroll down the bottom of the article

Transition to school