

Rachel Anne's Kangaroo Storytime

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Boing by Nick Bruel (ages 1-7)

Written entirely in dialogue and sound-effects, this energetic picture book shows a mother kangaroo encouraging her joey to try a few hops on his own. One by one, the mother kangaroo, toad, cricket and hare offer their advice and example as a koala slowly climbs down a tree, but the joey still falls flat with a "blomp." Finally, the koala asks "What do you have in your pocket?" While the other animals watch in stunned disbelief, a veritable counting lesson in goodies emerges from the young marsupial's pouch. "Try again." the koala says, once the pouch is empty. This time, the "BOING" bursts from the page--literally, as the last two pages open a pop-up. Now you try!

Does A Kangaroo Have A Mother, Too? by Eric Carle (ages 2-5)

"YES! A Kangaroo has a mother. Just like me and you. *Does a lion have a mother, too?*" Simple, repetitive text is combined with Eric Carle's signature illustrations.

It Was You, Blue Kangaroo! by Emma Chichester Clark (ages 5-6)

"Blue Kangaroo belonged to Lily. He was her very own kangaroo. Sometimes, when Lily was very naughty, she would say, 'It was you, Blue Kangaroo!' And Blue Kangaroo would look at Lily but say nothing."

Josephine Wants to Dance by Jackie French. Illustrated by Bruce Whatley (ages 4-8)

Josephine is a kangaroo who "bounced with the broulgas.../and leaped with the lyrebirds." Despite her younger brother's scorn: "Kangaroos don't dance, Josephine!" Not to be deterred, Josephine sneaks into town to watch the ballet rehearse. When the prima ballerina and understudy both injure themselves, Josephine literally leaps at the opportunity and demonstrates that she knows all the steps. Look for cameo appearances by the cast of *Diary of a Wombat* and *Pete The Sheep Sheep*.

Joey by Jack Kent (ages 5-8)

Joey's mother worried that her little kangaroo might get lost. "So, to keep track of him, she put Joey in her pocket. / ... Joey had coloring books and his toys to play with there. But he was lonely for someone his own age." So, Joey invited his friend Billy... and Betty... and Bob to come over and play. When they got bored, they brought in a TV, a

stereo system, and band instruments. Mama's pouch stretches larger and larger, and she watches the proceedings with alarm until Betty brings a piano. "THAT WILL DO!" Joey is a humorous cautionary tale for helicopter parents, and a fabulous kangaroo story.

Joey Runs Away by Jack Kent (ages 3-8)

Joey's mother has asked him a hundred times (okay, eight) to clean his room. "But he took one look at the mess and decided it would be easier to run away from home. So he did. Once news got out "that Joey's mother had an empty room," lots of animals wanted to try out her pouch.

Malu Kangaroo: How the First Children Learned to Surf by Judith Moracroft, illustrated by Bronwyn Bancroft (ages 4-9)

Illustrated in the style of Aboriginal dream paintings, this book tells the folklore-ish story of how Malu kangaroo invented surfing. Gorgeous illustrations in vivid colors plus a surfing kangaroo. What else do you really want?

The Very Boastful Kangaroo by Bernard Most (ages 2-7)

This accessible early-reader "is about a very, very boastful kangaroo. 'I can jump so, so high!' he bragged. 'No one can jump higher than I can!'" Indeed, one by one, he out jumps all comers until a tiny young kangaroo bets that he can jump higher than a tree—and does. After all, trees can't jump. Youngsters will be tickled by the hoary old joke, and best of all, the boastful kangaroo gives in with good grace without the usual pedantic moral.

Katy No-Pocket by Emmy Payne, illustrated by H.A. Rey (ages 1-7)

Poor Katy is a kangaroo with no pocket, so her little son, Joey, has to hop along after her everywhere they go. Katy asks other animal mothers how they transport their children, but Joey falls off Katy's back when she hops, and her arms are too short for carrying him. The wise old owl tells Katy to get a pocket in the city, where Katy meets a carpenter whose apron is covered in pockets.

Pouch! by David Ezra Stein (ages 2-7)

Joey is a little kangaroo. He lived entirely in his mama's pouch until "...he peeked out and saw the world, and his mama smiling down at him. / 'Mama,' said Joey, 'I want to hop!' / He climped out of the pouch and took two hops to the tall grass. / 'Who are you?' / 'Bee.' / 'POUCH!' said Joey." Each time Joey hops out to explore, he gets a little further before returning to his mother's pouch in a panic. One day, he meets another little kangaroo. "'POUCH!' said the two kangaroos. / 'Wait!' said Joey. 'You were afraid of me, too?'" The joeys giggle and hop off together. "'Pouch?' said the mamas. 'No, thanks.'" The minimal text pairs well with warm-hued watercolors for a cozy toddler/preschool book.

Kangaroo Rhymes

The Brown Kangaroo

The brown kangaroo is very funny
She leaps and runs and hops like a bunny

(hop)

And on her stomach is a pocket so wide
(put hand on tummy like a pocket)

Her baby can jump in and go for a ride
(hop other hand into "pocket")

Kangaroo Songs

"Katie the Kangaroo" Track 3 on

Atkinson, Lisa. *The Elephant in Aisle Four : And Other Whimsical Songs*. CD. Albany, N.Y. : A Gentle Wind, 2000.

"Marsupial Sue" Track 2 on

Lithgow, John et al. *Farkle And Friends*. CD. Los Angeles : Kid Rhino, 2002.

Kangaroo Craft

Supplies

- Brown paper bag
- Brown card stock
- Pink card stock (or pink crayons)
- Small googly eyes
- Glue
- Scissors
- brown yarn or twine
- Hole-punch

Preparations To Be Done Before Children's Participation

Prentice-Hall

1. Print the kangaroo template onto brown card stock.
2. Depending on the age of your group, either cut out the parts in advance, or cut each piece of brown paper so that it has two legs, one tail, and one kangaroo, and let the kids do their own cutting.
3. Cuff the top of enough paper bags for each child to have one bag
4. Punch a hole on either side of the cuffed bag, then tie a piece of twine or yarn to each hole, making the yarn just long enough to fit over a child's head.

Directions

1. Cut out the kangaroo's body parts
2. Glue the kangaroo's tail to his back, and each paw to his front
*tip: if you only add a dab of glue to the very top of each arm, the kangaroo can poke his paws over the edge of the pouch.
3. Glue or draw pink tear-drop shapes inside the kangaroo's ears
4. Put your kangaroo in your "pouch" and wear him around your neck.

