

# Little Wombat Series

## Themes

Australian wildlife

Friendship

New experiences

## Exploring the Stories

Ask the group by show of hands, who thinks they have the best mum? There are lots of different ways to show love, in the story Little Wombat's Mum looks after him, protects, teaches, feeds, grooms and challenges him. Ask the children to take turns sharing some examples of the things that their mum does that demonstrates her love. Are there some things that are common between all the children's experiences? (If you prefer, you can ask the group to identify another person in their lives who takes care of them the same way that Little Wombat's mother takes care of him.)

Like lots of kids, Little Wombat loves to adventure. Throughout all the Little Wombat books, he explores his surroundings and experiences new things – but he knows he always has his mum to come home to. She is his safe place and she is always there when he needs her most. Ask the group if they think Little Wombat would feel brave enough to explore and adventure if his mum wasn't there to help or comfort him when something went wrong? Everyone needs a safe place and a safe person to talk to, usually that is our Mum and Dad. Can the children think of other people in their own lives that are safe people? Who are they most likely to turn to if they need comfort or to help them sort out a difficult problem?



As a group or in pairs use the library resources to find some photos of wombats and compare them to Charles Fuge's illustrations. How are they similar? How are they different? Do illustrations have to look exactly like the thing they are portraying? Can you find any other picture books with wombat characters in your library resources? What similarities and differences can be seen between all the different illustrations?

Little wombat's burrow is in the trunk of a tree. Do you think that real wombats would have a burrow in the trunk of a tree? As a group, use the library resources to find out more information about wombats in the wild. What kind of burrow do they live in? What kinds of foods do they eat (grapes, carrots and apples like in the illustrations?) and what kind of parents are wombats (i.e. are they attentive parents, how long do they look after their young etc.)?

## Activities

### 'You're The Best, \_\_\_\_\_' Mini Book

Use the attached template to make a book about one of your favourite people. Be sure to include all the things that make this person the best! Cut and fold the template per the instructions, write their name in the title and then use the prompts to write and illustrate your book!

### Wonderful Wombats

Now that you have seen real photos of wombats and a number of different illustrated wombats, use your knowledge and the template provided to create your own Little Wombat character. You can spend a little time planning if you like, you might want to think about what you would like to make similar to real wombats, what you would like to make different and how you will make your Little Wombat unique.

To extend on this activity, you could write your own little wombat story or poem as well.

### Animal Spotting

Charles Fuge's beautiful illustrations include so many animals. Look through the book at a slower pace, can you spot all the animals and check them off the list? How many of these animals have you seen in real life? Draw a picture of your favourite animal in the space provided.

### Sticky Mud Painting

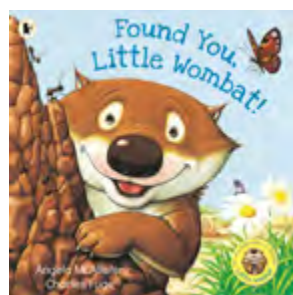
In the story, Little Wombat's Mum shows him "how to draw, with sticky mud upon my paw". Find or make some sticky mud of your own. On a piece of paper or a section of concrete footpath (that you can later clean) use your hands to make your very own sticky mud drawings. Be sure to take a photo of your muddy masterpiece and wash up thoroughly when you're all finished!

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### Related Titles



*Sometimes I Like to Curl Up in a Ball*  
Charles Fuge  
Vicki Churchill  
9781760652951



*Found You, Little Wombat!*  
Charles Fuge  
Angela McAllister  
9781760653491



*You're the Best, Mum!*  
Charles Fuge  
9781760652296



*Watch Out, Little Wombat!*  
Charles Fuge  
9781760653484





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Wonderful Wombat

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal	Found in the book	Seen in real life
Wombat	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Possum	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Budgie	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Kangaroos	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Frog	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Butterfly	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Animal	Found in the book	Seen in real life
Dragonfly	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Turtle	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Kookaburra	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Fish	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Tasmanian Devil	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Whale	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

My favourite animal is: \_\_\_\_\_: