



# FAMILY DAY CARE

Quality Home Based Childcare



## Kids at Home Family Day Care Newsletter

ISSUE 23 SUMMER 2013



**Office Closure**  
**19<sup>th</sup> December 2013 –**  
**reopen 30<sup>th</sup> December**  
**2013**



From all of us here at Kids at Home we wish each and everyone of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Regards, *Shougn*, Nina, Nykaela  
Clare and Urith



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Did you Know...?  
Butterflies taste with their feet.



[www.kidsathome.net.au](http://www.kidsathome.net.au)

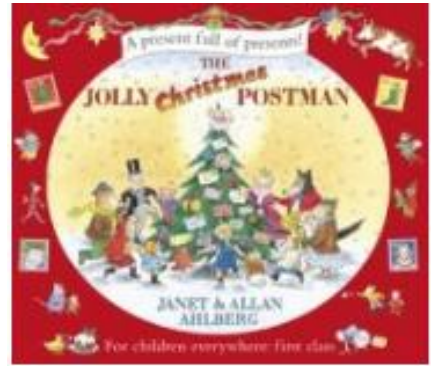
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## Book Corner – Celebrations around the world

### **The Jolly Christmas Postman**

Author Allan and Janet Ahlberg

What a delightful Christmas read and a twist on an old classic. Everyone's favourite postman is now 20 years old and to celebrate the authors have created The Jolly Christmas Postman. This book is interactive with many envelopes containing letters and cards for children to read. Join Humpty Dumpty, Mr Wolf, Red Riding Hood and many others in this Christmas adventure.

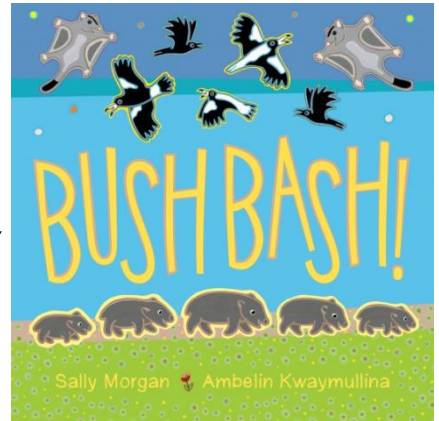


Most suited for readers- 3 to 5 years

### **Bush Bash**

Author Sally Morgan and Ambelin Kwaymullina

If you are tired of seeing white Christmas books and cards then it's time to come back to the bush. Bush Bash is a story of where Dingo is dashing off to. The book features Australian animals such as Numbats, flying frogs and Bilbies. With beautifully illustrated pages, wonderfully repetitive text, animals to count and its rich Indigenous Australian content, this story will appeal to all ages.

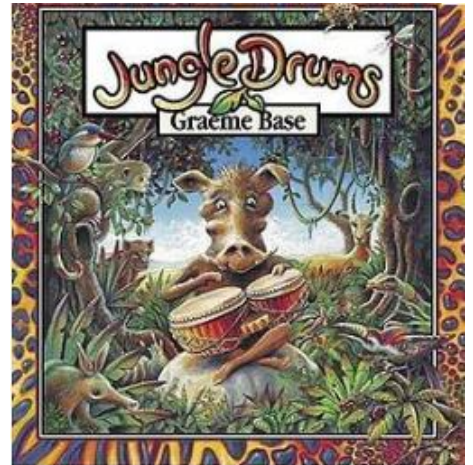


Most suited for readers- All ages

### **Jungle Drums**

Author Graeme Base

Little Ngiri is the littlest Warthog in Africa. Tired of being teased by his older siblings, he wishes things could be different. When Old Nyumbu the Wildebeest Gives Ngiri a set of magic drums, he is sure his wish is about to come true. But all the animals in the jungle are in for a huge surprise as Ngiri's wish is granted in an unexpected way.



Most suited for readers- 2 to 5 years



Kids at Home Family Day Care

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December

**Safety Audit & Risk Management**

- Check smoke detectors



January

**Safety Audit & Risk Management**

- Check smoke detectors



February

**Safety Audit & Risk Management**

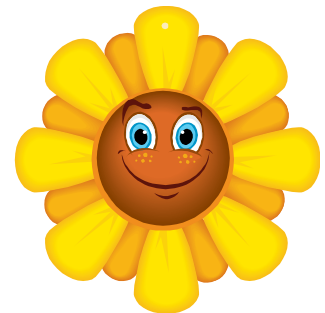
- Emergency and Evacuation Procedure
- Bathroom, toilet
- Nappy Change
- Laundry
- Check smoke detectors



Thank you

Thank you to all our families who participated in our toy fundraising event this year. I hope the items that you purchased will bring many hours of fun and happiness.

The vouchers we received will be put to good use with the purchase of some equipment for our resource library.






For "Emergencies" during office closure please call

**0430 404 524 or "000"**



# Calendar Events

Date	Event	Website
<b>December</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	<a href="http://www.idpwd.com.au/">http://www.idpwd.com.au/</a>
10 <sup>th</sup>	International Human Rights Day	<a href="http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/">http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/</a>
19 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup>	KAH Office closed	
25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day	
26 <sup>th</sup>	Boxing Day	
<b>January</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	New Years Day	
26 <sup>th</sup>	Australia Day	 <a href="http://www.australiaday.org.au/">http://www.australiaday.org.au/</a>
31 <sup>st</sup>	Chinese New Year	 <a href="http://www.chinesenewyear.com.au/">http://www.chinesenewyear.com.au/</a>
<b>February</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	World Wetlands Day	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Setsubun Sai Day (Japanese New year)	<a href="http://publicholiday.org/calendar/setsubun/">http://publicholiday.org/calendar/setsubun/</a>
4 <sup>th</sup>	World Cancer Day	<a href="http://www.worldcancerday.org">http://www.worldcancerday.org</a>
14 <sup>th</sup>	Valentines Day	
18 <sup>th</sup>	International Asperger's Day	
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Organ Donor Awareness Week	<a href="http://www.donatelife.gov.au/resources/donatelife-week-2014">www.donatelife.gov.au/resources/donatelife-week-2014</a>
28 <sup>th</sup>	Boardies Day for Surf life Saving	<a href="http://www.surfrescue.com.au/helpus/boardies-day-2014/">http://www.surfrescue.com.au/helpus/boardies-day-2014/</a>
28 <sup>th</sup>	School Clean up day	<a href="http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/">http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/</a>
28 <sup>th</sup>	I want 2 be day	<a href="http://www.iwant2be.com.au/the-kids-cancer-project/">http://www.iwant2be.com.au/the-kids-cancer-project/</a>





"I Want 2 Be Day" is on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014**. This is the week when YOU (Children, Families and Educators) can dress up as whoever you want to be by simply taking part in The Kids' Cancer Project "I Want 2 Be Day" fundraiser. Every week in Australia three children die from cancer and when these children leave us, their potential and promise of what they could have become is lost.

What a great day to be involved, contribute to the community, have fun, and raise money to assist with the research of childhood cancer. Participating in this event is not just about raising money, it is about raising awareness, bringing people together, having fun, families sharing with their children and opening up communication avenues for children's imagination and creativity.

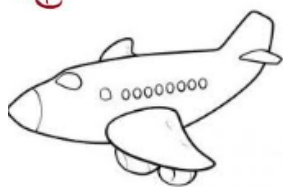
So now the BIG question is.... who do you want 2 be?

### Educator's Corner

Kids at Home would like to welcome Yvonne (North Lakes), Emily (Hawthorne), Rebecca (Eight Mile Plains), Sharon (Sunnybank) and Kirsty-lee (Ashmore) who have joined our team recently



We would also like to say a farewell to Michelle (Gold coast) and Celeste (Mt Gravatt) who are experiencing a change in circumstances



A sad Farewell and bon voyage to Tabitha (Marsden) who is heading to live in another state.

Lastly, good luck and best wishes to Kim (Upper Kedron) who has gone on maternity leave with baby #4





## Holidays and Celebrations

Celebrations evolve within a particular culture or community and reflect the feelings, beliefs, and events that have great meaning in that culture. Celebrations bring people together for many purposes. It is a time of reconnection with our community, values, and our own identity. Holidays give us a chance to express our feelings of joy, sadness, and respect through ceremonies and rituals. Through celebrating, we come together as a group to release our strong feelings. This helps build a sense of community, belonging and friendship.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**  
from around the world

**Italian:** Buon Natale  
**Welsh:** Kala Christouyenna!  
**Polish:** Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia or Boze Narodzenie  
**French:** Joyeux Noel  
**Danish:** Glædelig Jul  
**Spanish:** Feliz Navidad  
**German:** Gesëende Kersfees  
**Chinese:** Kung His Hsin Nien bing Chu Shen Tan  
**Chinese:** Chung Mung Giang Sinh  
**Chinese:** Shub Naya Baras  
**Chinese:** Gun Tso Sun Tan'Gung Haw Sun  
**Chinese:** Froehliche Weihnachten  
**Chinese:** Nollaig chridheil agus Bliadhna mhath ùr!  
**Chinese:** Shinnen omedeto. Kurisumasu Omedeto  
**Chinese:** La Maunia Le Kilisimasi Ma Le Tausaga Fou  
**Chinese:** Buone Feste Natalizie  
**Chinese:** Meri Kirihimete  
**Chinese:** Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva is Novim Godom  
**Chinese:** Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah  
**Chinese:** Veselé Vánoce





### Multicultural end of the year events

A number of cultural celebrations take place around the end of the year, including:

**Christmas Day - 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**Bodhi Day - 8<sup>th</sup> December**

**Yalda - 21<sup>st</sup> December**

**Hanukkah - 8<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> December**

**Omisoka – 31<sup>st</sup> December**

You may also be planning cultural celebrations into the new year:

**Vietnamese New Year- 31<sup>st</sup> January**

**Korean New Year- 1<sup>st</sup> January**

**Australia Day- 26<sup>th</sup> of January**

**Chinese New Year- 31<sup>st</sup> January**

### Parent Note

If you have changed address, phone number or contacts please advise your Educator and the office so we can update our records.



**Productivity Commission Inquiry** into how the child care and early learning system can be made more flexible, affordable and accessible, so that we (the government) can make the best decisions about the future of the sector. For more information about the Productivity Commission please go to the link below and if you want to have a say please provide feedback.

<http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/childcare>



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# Storm Season

Information sourced from- <http://charlieneese.wordpress.com/2013/02/25/how-to-help-calm-your-childs-fear-of-storms/>

As we are coming into storm season again it can bring out fears and anxiety in children. Severe Weather Safety Expert and television meteorologist Charlie Neese offers these tips on his website, to help children better cope with the stress of storms.

1. As a parent, you must remain calm during storms. Whether you have a fear or not, you need to be calm so that your children have a good role model of how to act.
2. Have a plan. Explain to your children that your family is prepared for no matter what nature throws your way. Make sure everyone in your family knows your severe weather safety plan and when warnings are issue place and wait out the storm. Feeling prepared and in control can go a long way in helping your child move past his/her fear.
3. As the lightning is flashing and the thunder is crashing, talk about storms that you went through as a kid as if it's a very normal experience. Allow them to talk through their fears. Share with them how you've been through hundreds of storms in your life and you've never had anything bad happen to you and you've never been hurt (if this is true – which it is for the VAST majority of readers). You can even go so far as to say something along the lines of, "You know Grandpa is 70 years old and he's never been hurt in a storm either – and he's seen LOTS of them."
4. Demystify storms by going and finding an age-appropriate book in the library which explains how thunderstorms form. Fear of the unknown is likely a big part of what is making your child scared. If you help them understand how they work, it takes a bit of the mystery (and spookiness) out of them. Go to Amazon.com and do a search for "Children's books about thunderstorms," and you'll get lots of suggestions.
5. Talk about storms as if they are a fascinating part of nature (which they are). Share what amazes you about storms and encourage them to see the amazing display before them. To this day, I'm still mesmerized by lightning and by watching a towering cumulonimbus cloud build miles into the sky.
6. If a storm is long-lasting, after some time, have something that can distract your child's attention from what's going on outside by having a book to read or a video to watch. This can also help the time pass by more quickly.

**There is a great free iPad App called "Australia Weather Information Lite for iPad" which has all the weather updates for the areas around where you live. Great tool to use with children and to plan your days activities around our unpredictable weather other the summer and all year**





# School holiday activities in Brisbane

1. Head to South bank and enjoy the sunshine- Check out their designer markets on Friday Nights
2. Dinosaur and bug fun at the QLD Museum
3. Take a drive up to Mt Coo-tha to check out the view
4. Plaster Fun House at Belmont
5. Tiddlywinks at Nundah for daily disco and indoor playground
6. Bricks N Fun for an indoor Lego building play centre
7. Victoria Park Golf Course for Mini Putt Putt or one of their golf camps
8. Go roller skating like at Albany Creek Skateaway or Digi Roller Skating Rink (Skateaway opened 26th Jan- digi roller Jan 3rd)
9. Take a City Cat Ride
10. Head to Bribie, Redcliffe, Wynnum or the Gold Coast for a twilight fish n Chips on the beach or a picnic
11. Take a train ride- kids love to ride on trains
12. Write up a scavenger list of natural items and head out to your local park and find them
13. Check out any of the playcentres in Brisbane for some indoor- air-conditioned fun
14. Visit one of the 100+ WOW playgrounds on our website
15. Head to your local library for their list of **free** holiday events for kids
16. Go fishing at our list of recommended places
17. Go for a bushwalk or picnic in the great outdoors
18. Check out Aussie World who have a new slide and over 30 rides
19. Visit Daisy Hill Koala Centre for a picnic and viewing of the Koalas- it's free!
20. Go fruit picking at one of the many strawberry farms around Brisbane
21. Visit Maleny Dairies for a real life dairy tour
22. Springfields brand new park- with lots of water fun and a cafe for parents in the middle
23. Make a Kite and go and fly it
24. Go to Lone Pine Sanctuary for a day amongst the animals
25. Check out the workshops rail museum at Ipswich for their holiday activity- " Day out with Thomas"
26. Find a local river with kids and have them build a dam, catch guppies in a bucket and enjoy Brisbane
27. Visit the Maritime Museum at South Bank
28. Head to Alma Park Zoo – for animals and a picnic
29. Go to Mount Glorious for a picnic, child friendly bushwalk and scones with jam and cream on the way down
30. Head out to the Abbey Museum for some history and wonder
31. Take a trip to Springbrook for a night-time glow-worm tour
32. Go to the beach- collect shells and build sandcastles
33. Head to New Farm Park to let the kids climb the trees or Scarborough Beach Park if you are closer. Climbing trees is good for the soul.
34. Have ice-cream after lunch- head to anyone of the best ice-cream shops in Brisbane as nominated by you!
35. Check out the Model Boats at the Boondall Wetlands on Tuesdays and Sundays- its a great picnic spot and has a playground for the kids



For more holiday ideas this holiday visit- <http://www.brisbanekids.com.au/school-holiday-activities-qld/>

List sourced from- <http://www.brisbanekids.com.au/school-holiday-activities-qld/>





Christmas Craft Ideas



Sourced from- <http://thewhoot.com.au/whoot-news/crafty-corner/hand-and-footprint-art-ideas>



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## **Important notice for families**

Are you yet to lodge a lump sum claim for child care benefit and/or child care rebate and Family tax benefit for the 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013 financial years?

If the answer is **YES** you have until **MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014** to lodge a lump sum claim with Centrelink

From 1 July 2013, you now have one year instead of two years to lodge lump sum claims for Child Care Benefit and Family Tax Benefit, and to confirm your income for Family Tax Benefit purposes.



***Child Care Benefit and Family Tax Benefit lump sum claim period has been reduced from two years to one year!***

- Did you pay full child care fees for 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013 and want to claim Child Care Benefit and/or Child Care Rebate as a lump sum?
- Do you want to claim Family Tax Benefit as a lump sum for 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013?
- If you received fortnightly Family Tax Benefit payments, do you need to lodge a tax return?

### **What has changed?**

From 1 July 2013, you now have one year instead of two years to lodge lump sum claims for Child Care Benefit and Family Tax Benefit, and to confirm your income for Family Tax Benefit purposes. This means you have until 30 June 2014 to do these things for the 2012-2013 financial year. You still have until 30 June 2014 to do these things for the 2011-2012 financial year.

For more information about the changes to the time period for lodging lump sum claims and confirming income for family assistance:

- visit [www.humanservices.gov.au/taxtime](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/taxtime)

### ***Child Care Benefit***

To be paid Child Care Benefit and/or Child Care Rebate as a lump sum for 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013, you and/or your partner need to:

- lodge a lump sum claim with Centrelink by 30 June 2014, and
- lodge your tax returns for 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013 with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), or tell Centrelink you don't need to lodge a tax return.

### ***Centrelink will also need:***

- details of the child care you have used throughout 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013.
- **This will be supplied by your approved child care service after you give them the Customer Reference Numbers (CRN) and dates of birth for the parent who is assessed for Child Care Benefit and the children attending care.**

Are you yet to lodge a lump sum claim for Child Care Benefit and/or Child Care Rebate and Family Tax Benefit for 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013 financial years?

If the answer is YES, you have until Monday 30 June 2014 to lodge a lump sum claim with Centrelink. December 2013

**Continued over page**



# Important Notice for Families continued....

## **Family Tax Benefit**

To be paid Family Tax Benefit as a lump sum for 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013, you and/or your partner need to:

- lodge a lump sum claim with Centrelink by 30 June 2014, and
- lodge your tax returns with the ATO for 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013 by 30 June 2014, or tell Centrelink you don't need to lodge a tax return.
- If you have received Family Tax Benefit by fortnightly instalments, you and/or your partner must also lodge your tax return by 30 June 2014 or tell Centrelink you don't need to lodge a tax return to receive your full Family Tax Benefit entitlement, including Family Tax Benefit supplements.

## **How to claim Child Care Benefit as a lump sum**

**You can claim:**

- online at [humanservices.gov.au/centrelinkonline](http://humanservices.gov.au/centrelinkonline) or
- by lodging a Claim for Approved Child Care payments as an annual lump sum payment Form (FA011 or FA052) with Centrelink.
- Your eligibility for Child Care Rebate will be assessed automatically as part of your lump sum claim and paid directly to your bank account at the end of the financial year after you have claimed your Child Care Benefit (if eligible).
- If you claimed Child Care Benefit as reduced fees paid to your service, your Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate entitlements will be reconciled and paid without the need to submit a Child Care Benefit lump sum claim form.

## **How to claim Child Care Benefit as reduced fees**

- If you prefer not to lodge a Child Care Benefit lump sum claim at the end of every financial year you should consider claiming Child Care Benefit as reduced fees paid to your service.
- You can claim for Child Care Benefit as reduced fees:
- online at [humanservices.gov.au/centrelinkonline](http://humanservices.gov.au/centrelinkonline)
- by lodging a Claim for Approved Child Care payments Form (FA002) with Centrelink
- via Centrelink's Express Plus Families mobile app, or
- by visiting a Centrelink Service Centre.

There is no need for you to claim Child Care Rebate separately. Centrelink will automatically assess your eligibility for Child Care Rebate once you've lodged a claim for Child Care Benefit. If your income is too high for Child Care Benefit, you may still be able to get Child Care Rebate.

## **How to get more information**

For further information about Child Care Benefit, Child Care Rebate and Family Tax Benefit:

- visit [humanservices.gov.au/families](http://humanservices.gov.au/families)
- on Family Update on Facebook or tweet @FamilyUpdateUA
- call 136 150 between 8 am and 8 pm (local time) Monday to Friday
- call 131 202 if you need information in a language other than English
- call teletypewriter (TTY) 1800 810 586 (if you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment). A TTY phone is needed to use this service.

