



## **Tales from Down Under Celebrating the Birthday of Mem Fox (b. March 5, 1946)**

### **Description of Program:**

G'day mates! Join us as we celebrate the 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday of author Mem Fox. Hear hilarious stories by Mem and play a few related games. We'll travel to Mem's home country of Australia, talk about 'roos, and create some awesome "Aussie" inspired crafts.

### **Program Plans:**

#### **Stories:**

*Magic Hat* - Follow the adventures of the magic hat as it travels around the town, leaving magical surprises along the way.

*Koala Lou* - When a new sibling arrives and her mother becomes too preoccupied, Koala Lou decides to enter the Bush Olympics to gain her mother's attention.

*Possum Magic* - Hush is a possum who's greatest wish is to become invisible and Grandma Poss has the bush magic to make it happen.

#### **Songs/Fingerplays:**

The following fingerplays were found at [www.everythingpreschool.com](http://www.everythingpreschool.com), and could be adapted into flannelboards.

#### *Five Little Koala Bears*

Five little koala bears in a eucalyptus tree  
The first one said, hey look at me.  
The second one said I'm a pretty furry bear.  
The third one said, I don't have a care.  
The fourth one said, Australia is my home.  
The fifth one said, I will never roam.  
Five little koala bears in a eucalyptus tree  
Climbing and playing and happy to be free!

## *Ten Baby Kangaroos*

Ten baby kangaroos standing in a row  
When they see their mama, they bow just so (bow)  
They kick to the left (hop to the left)  
They kick to the right (hop to the right)  
Then they close their eyes & sleep all night. (Put head on hands and pretend to sleep)  
Continue with Nine Baby Kangaroos, Eight Baby Kangaroos, etc

## **Games/Crafts**

### *Kangaroo Hop (Musical Chairs)*

Scatter pictures of kangaroos on the ground in the middle of circle of children. (Important! Make sure that there are more children than kangaroo pictures.) When music is played, children must hop like 'roos around the pictures. When the music stops each child must quickly pick up a picture. Any one that does not have a picture is given a "lolly" (Australian for lollipop) and must sit out the rest of the game. Remove a few pictures and play until there is a winner.

### *Koala Bear Carry Relay*

Divide participants into two teams, and give each team an apron and a stuffed koala bear. Each member of the team will tuck the koala in the apron and wear the apron. The team member must then walk as quickly as they can to the other side of the room and back without dropping the koala and pass the apron and koala bear to the next team member. The team that finishes first wins. (It would be a great idea to point out that like kangaroos, koala bears are marsupials and carry their young in pouches.)

### *Cardboard Boomerang Craft*

Trace the basic shape of a boomerang on cardboard or cardstock. Each participant can then cut out the shape and decorate their boomerang. (If you are working with older children, you might be interested in purchasing plastic, paintable boomerangs from [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com).)

### *Koala Bear Craft*

A simple tissue paper roll koala bear craft can be found at [www.dltk-kids.com](http://www.dltk-kids.com).

## **Food to serve:**

Anzac biscuits - Oatmeal cookies are a similar snack.

Pikelets - Similar to pancakes with powdered sugar.

Magic Fairy Bread - Using cookie cutters, cut shapes out of slices of bread, spread with butter and top with sprinkles.

**More information or questions?**

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