

## Learning possibilities

**Text:** Carle, E 1984, *The very busy spider*, Hamish Hamilton, New York.

### Engage

- Step 1. If you have this book at home, encourage your child/children to predict what the story is about from the cover. If not use the suggested video link in the Resources box and watch the story together.
- Step 2. Read/watch the story and encourage children to join in.
- Step 3. Invite your child/children to recall the characters in the story.
- Step 4. Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.
1. What animal sounds did you hear in the story?
  2. Finish this sentence: 'She was very busy because ...'
  3. Tell me how the spider made her web.
  4. Why didn't the spider talk to the animals?

### Respond

Re-read the story, encouraging your child/children to repeat the refrain, 'She was very busy spinning her web.' Encourage your child/children to make the sounds for each of the animals: 'Neigh' said the horse; 'Moo' said the cow; 'Baa' bleated the sheep; 'Maa' said the goat; 'Woof' barked the dog; 'Meow' cried the cat; 'Quack' called the duck; 'Cock-a-doodle-doo' crowed the rooster; 'Whoo' asked the owl.

Talk about the less familiar words and their meaning, for example: silken, spinning, webs.

### Extend

- Encourage your child/children to listen to and learn the song, 'Spin, spider, spin'. This song can be used as lovely quiet time 'resting' music or for a cuddle on the lounge after lunch.
- Retell the story outside focusing on the actions of the animals, for example encourage your child/children to pretend to be eating grass, running in the meadow, jumping on the rocks, rolling in the mud, chasing a cat, taking a nap, going for a swim, sleeping in a web.
- Invite your child/children to draw their favourite character from the story.
- Look around the garden – can you see any spider webs in the trees? Ask the children to look at the patterns in the web and whether the spider has caught any insects.

Remember to tell you child/children to look but not touch the webs. Keep your child safe.

### Resources

#### Rhyme

'Incy wincy spider' (traditional)  
Incy Wincy spider  
climbed up the water spout.  
Down came the rain  
and washed poor Incy out.  
Out came the sunshine  
and dried up all the rain.  
So Incy Wincy spider  
climbed up the spout again.

#### Video

*Words and Pictures The Very Busy Spider* (YouTube, KINDER)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhkZi28sE\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhkZi28sE_E)

*Peggy Zeitlin -[8]- Spin Spider Spin* (YouTube, ThePsychedelicGarden)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoN14e8CCWM>

*Incy Wincy Spider Nursery Rhyme with lyrics – Kids song and cartoon animation* (YouTube, Turtle Interactive)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSSnAMa1ArQ>