

Play  
School

# Story Time

## PlayWorld

### Ideas for parents and carers

In this episode of Play School Story Time, Moana Hope shares 'Amira's Suitcase' by Vikki Conley & Nicky Johnston.

This is a story about Amira who discovers a small seedling growing in her suitcase. She takes care of it, makes new friends and feels good when she watches it grow.



**STEM learning**  
Ecosystems and the exciting work of scientists.

**This PlayWorld supports:**

Connection to the natural world and a curiosity about science. It also fosters empathy and working together as a team.

#### STEP 1: View/read and reflect



Amira discovers a seedling and helps it grow. While you read, talk with your child about why they think soil, sun and water helps plants grow.

You can also help your child think about how their body feels when they feel happy because they're helping something.

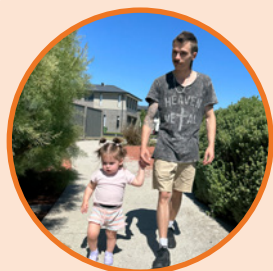
#### STEP 2: Plan your play

Discover how plants make seeds and grow more plants.

- Make a pretend beehive outside; leave textas and paper there.
- Make a pretend apple tree somewhere else.
- Record a voice message from the apple tree on a phone - *I'm so excited it's spring. All my blossoms are out and ready but there are no bees to help me make my fruit. Can you help?*
- Decide who will be which characters from the book: Amira, Nala or Thien.



#### STEP 3: Go on your adventure



- Put on your imaginary hats and clothes. Walk outside and start exploring Amira's world.
- Can you find seeds to make new plants? Can you find pollen?
- Discover the beehive and be amazed by all the bees!

#### STEP 5: Learn through play

Decide how you will tempt the bees to the apple tree by drawing a picture or map. Include the blossom pollen, and talk about how bees fly from flower to flower to help pollinate plants.



#### STEP 4: Encounter a problem

As you explore, have the phone ring and play the message from the apple tree.

*Where are the bees? Where do you think they have gone?*

*The bees are all here! They mustn't know the apple tree has lots of flowers for them.*



#### Why this learning matters

This PlayWorld fosters your child's curiosity and helps them learn about bees, pollination, and helping others.



A partnership between



Images: Ebony Hall, with thanks to Brad and Amalia Jackson. 'Amira's Suitcase' Written by Vikki Conley and illustrated by Nicky Johnston is published by New Frontier Publishing, 2021. Images provided by the Monash Conceptual PlayLab.