



# Play School

## Play School's Lights, Camera, Action Early Education Notes

### BACKGROUND

Is there anything that pre-schoolers love more than preparing for a show? In *Play School's Lights, Camera, Action* we dive into the magic of theatre, radio and podcast, animation, television and film. With a spotlight on the arts in *Early Childhood*, this series explores the technical and creative fun of production; from planning a script, rehearsals and making props through to clever camerawork, lighting and sound and the excitement of the performance. "Through the Windows" we'll see children across Australia showing us what they love to create at home from a cooking show to a home-made stop motion animation.

### FOLLOW-UP LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

#### LINKS TO THE EYLF

**Outcome 4:** Children are confident and involved learners

**4.1** children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity.

**4.2** children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem-solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating.

**4.3** children transfer and adapt what they have learnt from one context to another.

**Outcome 5:** Children are effective communicators

**5.3** children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media.

**5.5** children use information and communication technologies to access information, investigate ideas and represent their thinking.



## THEATRE

We explore the magic that happens backstage in theatre production.

Michelle and Matt make sure the lighting is designed perfectly during their puppet show rehearsal. Michelle animates crafty ducks as Puppeteer and Matt the Director guides the action, referring to the script for the right lyrics to bring the story together. With just a bit more rehearsal the performance will be ready for an audience!

We take a hilarious glimpse into the wig department as Matt helps Michelle to find just the right look for a talent show. Does she want a wig for a jig, a funny wig for a joke, or something to wear for a song – some opera perhaps, or a pop song?

In the story, **'Too Loud Lily'** by **Sofie Laguna and Kerry Argent**, we meet Lily Hippo. Her loud voice and big personality is just right for the stage!

A rehearsal for a dance performance gives us some insight into the world of ballet as Jemima the choreographer leads Humpty through a sequence of steps, which includes a jetté leap and a pirouette spin.



## EXTENSION IDEAS

- Make your own puppets by adding some string to your toys to allow them to be animated from above. Create a set and try a torch for a spotlight. Perhaps the torch beam can follow along with the action.
- Experiment with light to create shadow puppets, silhouettes and shapes. Explore the effect that distance has on the size and shape of the shadow cast by the puppet.
- Find Dance Notation images online - the symbolic representation of dance in graphic form. See if you can work out the intended movements from the illustrations or make up your own using children's drawings.
- Choreograph your own series of steps, then try to illustrate the pattern of movements for someone else to try. Their interpretation may be quite different to yours.





## RADIO AND PODCAST

Rachel and Luke are in the recording studio getting ready to record a song, 'Pitter Patter'. Rachel warms up her voice with some vocal exercises. Luke finds the right sound for rain on a tin roof, and they lay down the track.

Preparing for the Space News, Rachel and Luke create a story board to make sure they have the facts right and the sequence of events are in the correct order. Luke rehearses the story several times as Rachel guides him with some changes before he is ready to make his broadcast.

In the told story, Kiya and Joey are on a road trip to find Big Ted. They connect their phone to the car radio and choose different genres of music depending on their mood, finding singalong, dance, and relaxing music as they travel.

Humpty creates a Froggy Facts podcast called 'The Hop', interviewing his special guest Fergus about his trip around Australia finding frogs.



### EXTENSION IDEAS

- Make your own podcast – a “how to” guide perhaps and try it out on your friends.
- Contribute to an ABC Kids listen podcast by sending children’s favourite words in for [Story Salad](#). Listen to a real nature podcast for kids, ABC Kids listen’s [Noisy by Nature](#).
- Create your own audio book using a familiar story. Include sound effects and perhaps a special sound for the page-turn so the listener can read along too.
- What happened today? Record your own ‘daily news’ broadcast. Story board events of the day in sequence and maybe add in an interview with someone significant for a different perspective.
- Record some different sounds and play a guessing game – can you guess the sound?
- Go on a walk and record commentary along the way. Take the same walk on another day and listen to the recording as you go. Has anything changed?





## ANIMATION

*Move and click*  
*Move and click*  
*Tiny clicks*  
*it can't be quick*  
*Move and click*  
*Move and click*  
*Step by step*  
*Yes, that's the trick*

Matt and Emma prepare to tell the story of Crawly the Caterpillar in an animation. When the animation is played back, they notice something is missing. So Emma creates a voice recording of the story and 'A Surprise in the Garden' is created.

Making a backdrop for a scene can be fun and it can then be used in different ways. Emma and Matt create a large paper collage of bush colours for the song 'Doin' It' about a little buzzing native bee making the flowers grow.

In a singalong with the toys, the presenters play around with vocals to find just the right voice for each character – a soft, purry sound for Diddle the Cat, and a higher pitch for little Joey. Remembering which voice to use for each toy can take some practise!



## EXTENSION IDEAS

- Use the time lapse function on a smart phone or tablet to create a simple animation by moving an item slightly across a made set each time the indicator circle returns to the same point. Play it back to see the animation come to life. Ask your friends to narrate or make sound effects for a different interpretation.
- Explore different voices for toys or craft made characters. How might they sound when they are happy, or grumpy?
- Play around with sound effects – what might work for thunder, footsteps, or wind?





## TELEVISION

*'Look through the lens of my camera  
What in the world will I see?*

*Zooming in close  
Zooming out wide*

*Lights camera  
action!*

*Lights camera  
action!*



We go behind the scenes to see a television show being filmed as Tao and Miah help the toys to get everything ready for a segment on Humpty's Home Gardening Show. Everyone has their job to do – Dan is on props, Jemima has the sound boom and Big Ted is the camera operator. Kiya the Director watches what the camera sees on her monitor and makes sure everything is in the right place.

In the 'What To Wear Weather Report' Miah presents the weather around the country through a box screen tv with lots of fun ideas for 'what to wear so you're dressed with flair!'.



### EXTENSION IDEAS

- Make a weather report for the week – film a segment each day and then compile it together at the end of the week.
- Put together a simple “how to” video eg making a pizza or tying your shoelaces. You could break down the process beforehand with a storyboard. Try some different camera techniques like zooming in to emphasise a point, or explore different places for lighting eg inside or outside with natural light.
- Make your own music video to a familiar children's song – make some decisions about props and movement and have a rehearsal before the filming.







## FILM

*“All quiet on set please...  
...and ACTION!”*

Kaeng and Rachel are on the film set preparing to shoot the final scene of a movie, *The Detective Dog*. Kaeng has a costume, but he needs something extra for his role as the Dragon. So, we meet Natalia the make-up artist who transforms him with a green base and some special effect fangs, lumps and bumps.

### EXTENSION IDEAS

- Make a costume department and have some fun creating and building on your own characters. Go in as yourself and come out as someone else. Who are they and what is their story?
- Create a simple set based on a favourite picture book for dramatic play. Children can be involved in decision making and construction.







## PICTURE BOOK SUGGESTIONS

- Maisie Goes To A Show (2019)  
by Lucy Cousins
- Wombat Divine (1995)  
by Mem Fox and Kerry Argent
- Giraffes Can't Dance (2015)  
by Giles Andreae
- I Love To Dance (2008)  
by Anna Walker



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Play School Senior Producer**  
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**Play School Supervising Producer**  
Natalie Robinson-Hurst

**ABC Kids Originals Editorial Manager**  
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