



Play School

Play School: World By Night Early Education Notes

When the sun goes down, the world comes alive in so many ways. Come and explore the mystery and excitement of the world at night in this ground-breaking new series.

From family bedtime routines to night workers, nocturnal animals and night-time adventures, star gazing and the phases of the moon. In each episode, with the help of a globe and a torch, we look at where the sun goes at night-time and why it gets dark.



AS THE WORLD SPINS AROUND

(K. Montague and P. Dasent)

As the world spins around
and away from the sun
Daytime is over
Night has begun
The stars are twinkling
The moon grows bright

As we sleep and we dream
All through the night
So good night to the stars
And good morning sun
As the world keeps on spinning
A new day's begun.

HOME BY NIGHT

It's night-time at Play School and Rachael and Abi play a game of dress-ups as they get ready for bed. We make night lanterns using a paper bag and a paper cup. And in the story, Big Ted is there to help Maurice and Little Ted as they have trouble going to sleep in our told story.

Through The Windows we see families at night-time having dinner, reading bedtime stories and getting ready for bed.



Follow up

Predictable routines can be very helpful for a calm, settled transition to bed. Involve children in creating your own book or story about your family bedtime routine.

EYLF 2.0 link: Children feel safe, secure and supported by participating in familiar routines and rituals to make smooth transitions.

NATURAL WORLD AT NIGHT

Rachael and Alex explore nocturnal creatures who rely on the dark. We make a glow worm garden and explore bioluminescence. Two very special guests join Alex as we meet Ravi the bird handler and his friend Diva the Barn Owl.

Through The Windows we see creatures that glow in the dark and other nocturnal native animals moving about at night. Humpty and Little Ted go spotlighting and listen out for animal sounds before they spot them in the dark.



Follow up

- Go for a walk after the sun goes down. Listen for different animal sounds. Take a torch and see what you can spot.
- Add 'glow in the dark glue' to your own playdoh or paint. We used a blue light torch in studio to help the worms glow. Try "charging" your creation in the sunshine or under a lamp. Can you see it in the dark?

EYLF 2.0 link: Children are confident and involved learners by expressing wonder and interest in their environments.

CITIES AND BUILDINGS – PEOPLE WHO WORK AT NIGHT

Through The Windows we see many people out and about doing important night-time work while we sleep. Big Ted is busy all through the night at his bakery making sure the bread is baked in time for breakfast. Alex and Michelle make breakfast bircher muesli to soak overnight in the fridge, ready for the morning.



Follow up

Make your own bircher muesli with oats, yogurt, milk, grated apple, chia and pumpkin seeds.

EYLF 2.0 link: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing and an awareness of good nutrition.

THE NIGHT SKY

Astronomer and Wiradjuri woman Kirsten Banks joins Kaeng and Abi in this episode where we explore the sky at night. We look at the different phases of the moon and explore why we only see the stars at night-time. Kirsten introduces us to constellations and shares in the joy when Kiya and Jemima take a road trip to the desert to find the 'emu in the sky' constellation.

Through The Windows we see the amazing phenomenon of Aurora Australis and some astronauts in space. We explore the different colours of the sky at sunrise and sunset through visual arts.



Follow up

- Make your own moon calendar – draw the shape of the moon as we see it each night over time (there are lots of online resources to help with this; just search 'phases of the moon').
- Play with shadows – draw around the shadow of a fixed object at different times of the day. See how the sun moves from one side of the sky to the other. Stretch children's thinking by inviting them to consider what happens to the shadow as the sun moves.

EYLF 2.0 link: Children are confident and involved learners and participate in a variety of rich and meaningful inquiry-based experiences.

ADVENTURES AT NIGHT

Matt and Michelle make a shadow puppet theatre and some frog puppets for a show. In the story, Michelle and Joey go on an evening adventure on the light rail to the moonlight cinema. *Through the windows* we see noodle markets, carnivals and festivals at night. Matt and Michelle take the toys on a night-time treasure hunt to see the different light displays before they watch the fireworks.



Follow up

Make your own shadow puppet theatre or use a torch to create body shadow puppets on the wall. Can you them bigger and smaller?

EYLF 2.0 link: Children are confident and involved learners use trial and error to explore different possibilities through 'cause and effect'.

Picture books in this series

- *It's Time All Possums Went Bed* (2022) by Jacqui Halpin and Gavin Scott
- *Who is Awake Tonight?* (2023) by Katie Ring and Clodagh Crowe

More picture book suggestions

- *All Through the Night: People Who Work While We Sleep* (2021) by Polly Faber and Harriet Hobday
- *Eyes in the Dark* (2001) by Kim Dale
- *There's No Such Thing* (2020) by Heidi McKinnon
- *Tjitji Lullaby* (2022) by Michael Ross and Zaachariaha Fielding and Lisa Kennedy.
- *Where the Wild Things Are* (1963) by Maurice Sendak
- *Goodnight Harry* (2004) by Kim Lewis
- *Nighty Night* (2000) by Margaret Wild and Kerry Argent

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