

Series overview

Get ready to discover and delight in the many similarities and differences we find around us! This series of Play School focuses on how we understand and respect diversity; recognising unique qualities and shared experiences. Join Kiruna, Luke, Rachael, Kaeng, Abi, Matt and special guest [Kurt Fearnley](#) as they explore culture, communication, movement and appearance – helping children to develop a positive sense of self, wellbeing and belonging.

Episode 1

Join Rachael & Luke as they explore appearances by painting portraits, decorating gingerbread twins and by meeting some adorable puppy visitors. 'Through the Windows', we join two best friends on a play date.

Follow up ideas: Portrait play time

Rachael and Luke create portraits by mixing shades of paint to match skin tone, eye and hair colour. They carefully observe each other, then talk about what is the same and what is different.

Portrait making is a great way to explore identity and sense of self. There are many ways to create a portrait. Portrait making can be much more than simply creating a likeness – portraits can be symbolic and open to all kinds of creative interpretation! Try out some of these ideas:

- Create assemblage portraits with loose parts in upcycled picture frames.
- Collage Picasso style portraits with coloured paper shapes and magazine cut outs.
- Sketch collaborative portraits where each child (sitting around a table) takes turns to add a facial feature to complete a portrait of a peer or an educator. Plenty of fun and giggles to be had with this one!
- Check out more portrait making ideas with [Play School: Art Time](#). Check out episode 11 and corresponding [Educator Notes](#).

Link to EYLF Outcomes including 1.3, 2.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5.3



What a useful way to upcycle old boxes! Why not create some life-sized body puzzles like Rachael and Luke?



Same and Different gingerbread twins

- Bake some gingerbread twins at your place! Find Play School's delicious gingerbread recipe [here](#).
- For healthy topping alternatives use ricotta or cream cheese as icing. Children can decorate in different ways with sultanas and other small pieces of fresh/dried chopped fruit, shredded coconut and a little drizzle of honey to taste.
- For a related language and literacy extension, take photos of each stage of baking and decorating. Jumble up the printed photos, then ask children to paste them into a scrap book in the correct sequence. Add instructions. Make copies of your illustrated recipe to revisit and share.
- While busy in the kitchen, connect remotely with grandparents and friends. Use video chat to co-bake and decorate together.

Link to EYLF Outcomes including 4.3, 4.4, 5.3, 5.5.

Episode 2

Kiruna & Matt along with special guest Kurt Fearnley as they get active with ball game, dress up as animals and decorate delicious gingerbread biscuits! Through The Windows, we join two best friends at their tea party.

Follow up ideas

DIY indoor ball games

Our presenters play a fun indoor cricket game with lots of different sized balls (soft), including a super simple ball made of nothing more than scrunched-up piece of paper! Try these other DIY games to keep busy and active indoors:

- **Sock basketball:** Use a laundry basket as a net to catch balls made of rolled up socks.
- **Upcycled skittles:** Collect plastic milk bottles and arrange in a triangle (as in ten-pin bowling). Use a soft ball or rolled up socks to play.
- **Floor hot potato:** Sit in a circle on the floor with legs angled out so everyone's feet are touching. Roll a soft ball from person to person as quickly as possible. No one should have the ball for more than a couple of seconds. Aim to keep the ball moving without leaving the circle. If it pops out, everyone in the circle must stand up and do 10 star jumps!

For lots more safe and entertaining indoor ball games check out these helpful links; [Frugal Fun for Boy and Girls](#) and [Teach Starter](#)

Link to EYLF Outcomes including 3.2, 4.3, 4.4.

Vehicle sort n' match

This is a great activity for those with a big collection of toy vehicles! Encourage children to sort and match the vehicles based on similarities and differences. Each time you play, consider sorting by size, colour, purpose and shape. Use a basket to group vehicles as you sort. Turn this into an early numeracy game. After completing each round, count how many vehicles are in the basket. Encourage children to keep count by creating a tally. This simple experience is great for building sequential counting skills and awareness of one to one correspondence!



Matt, Kiruna and Kurt play same and different animal dress ups!

Visit ABC Education for more useful [Foundation level maths ideas](#) and click [here](#) for more DIY one to one correspondence games. Watch [Numberblocks](#) on ABC iView for more maths fun and games.

Link to EYLF Outcomes including 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5.1.

Upcycled creatures

Wait! Don't throw out your recyclables just yet ... give them a whole new life as imaginative DIY creatures! Kiruna and Matt used extra bits and pieces from the kitchen along with upcycled plastics to assemble river creatures. Their frog, owl and turtle became characters in a told story. Use parts again and again - rather than using tape and glue, use sticky-tack to assemble.

See children gathering interesting upcycled materials [here](#). Learn more about recycling [here](#). Read more about sustainable play in Early Childhood Australia's (ECA) [The Spoke](#).

Link to EYLF Outcomes including 2.4, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4.



Episode 3

Kiruna & Luke make dancing animal puppets, take the toys to the park for a gelato treat and create a box apartment block and meet the families who live there. Through The Windows we explore being creative with paint and goo!

Follow up ideas

Who's habitat? Move and Match game

Using Kiruna and Luke's animal habitat dress-up game as inspiration, go online together and find images of different animal habitats. Key word search suggestions:

- Rainforest /jungle
- Ocean / reef
- Australian bush
- Desert
- Savannah
- Farm
- Forest

Beautiful images can be accessed for free via [Unsplash](#), [Shutterstock](#) or [Pexels](#). Print at least 4 of your favourite images. Arrange dining chairs (place a safe distance apart to allow for dance and movement in between). Place a picture of each habitat on a chair. Play some music and encourage children to dance around the chairs. When the music stops, children run to the nearest chair and freeze in a position like an animal from that habitat! When the music plays again, children move around like that animal until the music stops and they take on a different animal pose. Keep the game going until children have had a turn at being an animal from every habitat.

Video call puppet show!

Using an old cardboard box, create a mini theatre like Luke. He made simple cat and pig finger puppets out of extra card with two holes cut out of the bottom. Your fingers become the puppet's legs. Create any animals you like! To extend, a sibling or carer could film the puppet show. Exchange videos with family or friends who have also recorded a show. Keep in touch with grandparents and loved ones – they can join your live puppet show via video-call!

Link to EYLF Outcomes including 4.3, 4.4, 5.1, 5.3, 5.5.



Upcycled boxes can become awesome DIY puppet theatres!

Episode 4

Kaeng and Luke explore different ways to say hello, dress up as animals and make weird and wonderful animal noises. We also see how to make a bag for every occasion and play a Simon Says game with different languages. Through The Windows we take a trip to the zoo!

Follow up idea

Bubbling bath time fountain fun

We saw how simple and exciting it can be to create a homemade fountain. Go on a hunt in your kitchen cupboard to find useful containers for making your own fountain. Stack up each object in the bath (you will need something heavy to keep the base object submerged). Keep an old colander for the very top. Squirt a little extra bubble bath in the colander before pouring in water. Watch as the bubbles foam up as you pour! Bath time just became a little more magical!



Episode 5

Join Kiruna and Abi as they explore different rhythms and movement, go on a colourful egg hunt and take the toys shopping for ballet shoes! Through The Windows we take a look at two best friends who love to dance.

Follow up ideas

Virtual dance party in your lounge room!

We see Kiruna teaching Abi how to tap-dance! ABC Kids Early Education have some great videos showing children taking part in dance classes – learning to move and groove in different ways. Take a look, then you can join in too:

- [Break dancing](#)
- [Ballet dancing](#)
- [African dancing](#)

Using an online video chat provider, dial in children's friends and have a dance off! Tune into an episode of ABC Kids listen's [Dance Party](#) at the same time (so you all hear the same music). Each friend takes turns to lead the dance, then everyone does the same. Include educators and other family members too! This would work best in one grown-up helped to coordinate the activity.

Wax resist artwork

Abi makes some beautiful coloured eggs using wax crayon and food dye. As many of us are being very careful with the way we use food at the moment, here are some other ways to experiment with a similar creative idea.

- Using plain wax candles, draw designs on art paper or pieces of upcycled cardboard. You can cut up old cereal boxes and use the plain side as a canvas!
- Paint across your waxy design using watered down acrylic paints or watercolours.
- Watch as the magic hidden design is uncovered.
- Create a collection of wax resist masterpieces, then display them on a wall at your place. Children can invite others (or their toys) to their art show. Maybe suggest they set up a counter to sell pretend tickets at the door.

Link to EYLF Outcomes including 4.3, 4.4, 5.3.



Kiruna and Abi dance and play in different ways.

Time trial search and find!

Abi gives Kiruna clues to find the hidden eggs – the following activity is a super simple variation that will get kids switched on, up and moving!

Once you are finished displaying your paintings from the previous activity, invite children to choose one artwork they would be happy to cut into shapes (approx. 10 shapes). Children choose a designated area of their house or backyard. Use sticky-tack to place each of their coloured shapes around (keep them in plain sight). Using a stopwatch, adults can time children as they gather all the shapes as fast as they can. Have a few attempts so children can race against themselves and beat their best time!



Remember the endless fun that can be had with shop play! Shoes, clothes, toys, canned foods - Playing shops is one of the very best ways to promote confident social skills and early maths concepts.

Credits

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