



Imagine a place

By children and families
on Djaara Country





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A story about going to playgroup
By children and families on Djaara Country

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With thanks to the following staff who made this project possible:

Jenna McKerlie, Tara-Jane Priest and Carter Thomas,
wonyotjarrapil playgroup, BDAC (Bendigo District
Aboriginal Co-operative)

Elly Uren, Lauren Brown and Wendy Irving, Shine Bright
Supported Playgroup

Rev Hannah Gregory, Hope Community Playgroup, Huntly

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Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-operative

wonyotjarrapil playgroup is a deadly space where Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children come together with their families or carers to connect with culture, community, and each other. Facilitated by Tara-Jane and Jenna from the Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-operative (BDAC), the playgroup takes place every Wednesday during school terms at *djimbaya*, BDAC's kindergarten space.

Hope Community Playgroup

Hope Community Playgroup meets Thursday mornings in term time. We are a multi-generational and multi-ethnic playgroup. We have toy time and finish with story, songs and morning tea. At Hope playgroup you can expect friendship, understanding, fruit and cake. Hope Playgroup will always be cost free.

Shine Bright Supported Playgroups

A fun, safe, play-based, supported playgroup based in White Hills, Bendigo. Facilitated by Elly, Lauren and Wendy from Shine Bright, the group is designed to build the confidence, skills and knowledge of parents and children in a safe, secure and stable environment.

Kids' Own Publishing

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Kids' Own Publishing is a social purpose arts organisation that empowers children, families and communities to share their stories through artist led community publishing.

C4C Bendigo acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung peoples as the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We pay our respects to Leaders and Elders past, present and emerging. We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land and our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing. We commit to working respectfully to honour their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to this country and hope that we may walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of healing.

Imagine a place

With thanks to our artists

Alfie & Prawpan
Luna & Heidi & Rhiannon
Mackinnon, Maddison & Cassie
Layla, Paul & Hannah
Nico, Roman & Tara
Luca & Sophie
Seffi & Temily

Jarrahn & Tae-Shara
Charlie, Oliver & Bernadette
Aleksander & William
Ella, Mia & Sarah
Grayson & Brooke
Mary, Ruby & Ash
Izzy, Spencer & Deanne
Malikai & Brooke
Nakoah & Stacey
Huddy & Tanisha
Logan, Freya & Nikki
Valerie & Eliza
Alma & Sarah
Neveah, Karter & Anne

Mikayla, Zayden & Aria
Lay Lay & Nihu
Moe Moe & Eliana
Paw Hen, Valerie & Vancent
Carissa, Athena & Neo
Say Say & Moana
Lauren, Evie & Eli





Playgroup: A regular and relaxed gathering of young children and their loved ones, where play inspires new confidence and skills.

Bendigo has always been a place for playful gatherings and connection to Country. Today there are more than 30 playgroups that meet here each week.

This book invites readers to celebrate the benefits of playgroup participation and consider joining their own gentle, friendly, playful community.

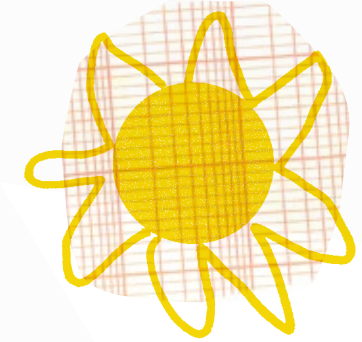


Where to start?
First things first.

Here is the land
Here is the sky
Here are my friends
And here am I
We stand together, hand in hand
Acknowledging we learn and play
on Dja Dja Wurrung Land

Imagine a place
Where you can move freely
and safely and fast

Tiger-like fast



At the same time
Once a week
Every week

Imagine a place...



where Hannah has bought a cake for every new mum for the past 20 years. It was Leonie's turn to bring cake today

Chocolate & raspberry, double decker



Tara-Jane, Jenna and Carter greet and set up wonyotjarrapil playgroup for **ferocious** indoor-outdoor exploring while community gather and yarn



Elly, Lauren and Wendy

listen deeply

to everything we say



Imagine a place where...

Dinosaur meets **tiger**
and zebra wears a cape
and a jumper



All the animals
the sand-printed ones
the hidden ones in the sandpit

The ones that are close by
and the ones that
play far away



The ones that live
in our imagination
The big ones
The small ones
The fast ones
and the slow ones

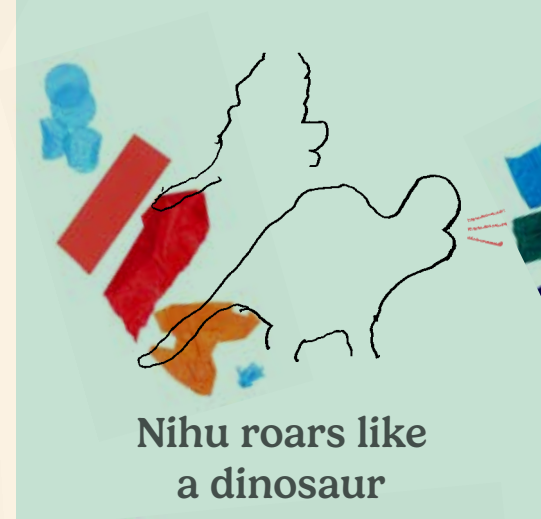


And the animals
that live
with us
at home

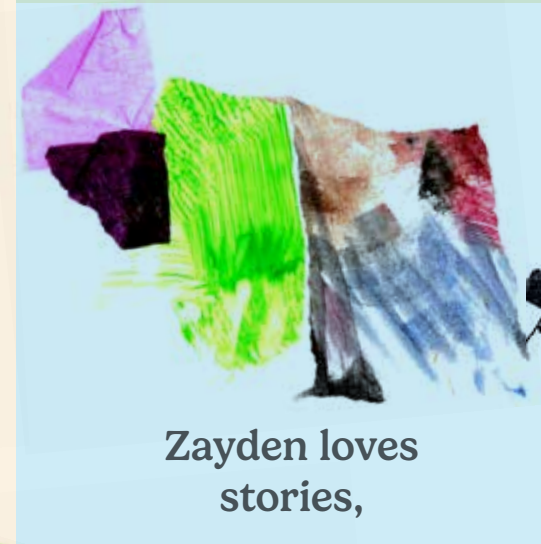


And all the friends
The old and new ones
Aria feeds mama cucumber

Evie whispers whispers



Nihu roars like
a dinosaur



Zayden loves
stories,



Hudson digs tunnels
and builds homes



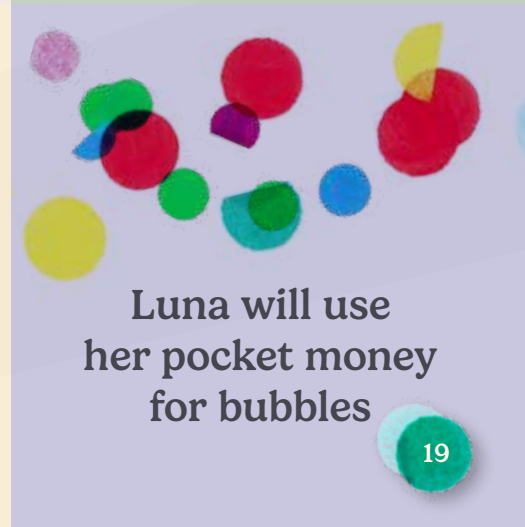
Nevaeh creates
2 books with materials
from inside-out



Izzy loves playing in
the mud kitchen



Alma shares
her camping stories



Luna will use
her pocket money
for bubbles

Imagine a place...

Athena loves
the heater

She tells a story:
There was a
handsome prince
named Mr Giraffe Pants
and one day he found
a castle while riding
on his horsey and he
found a princess in it.

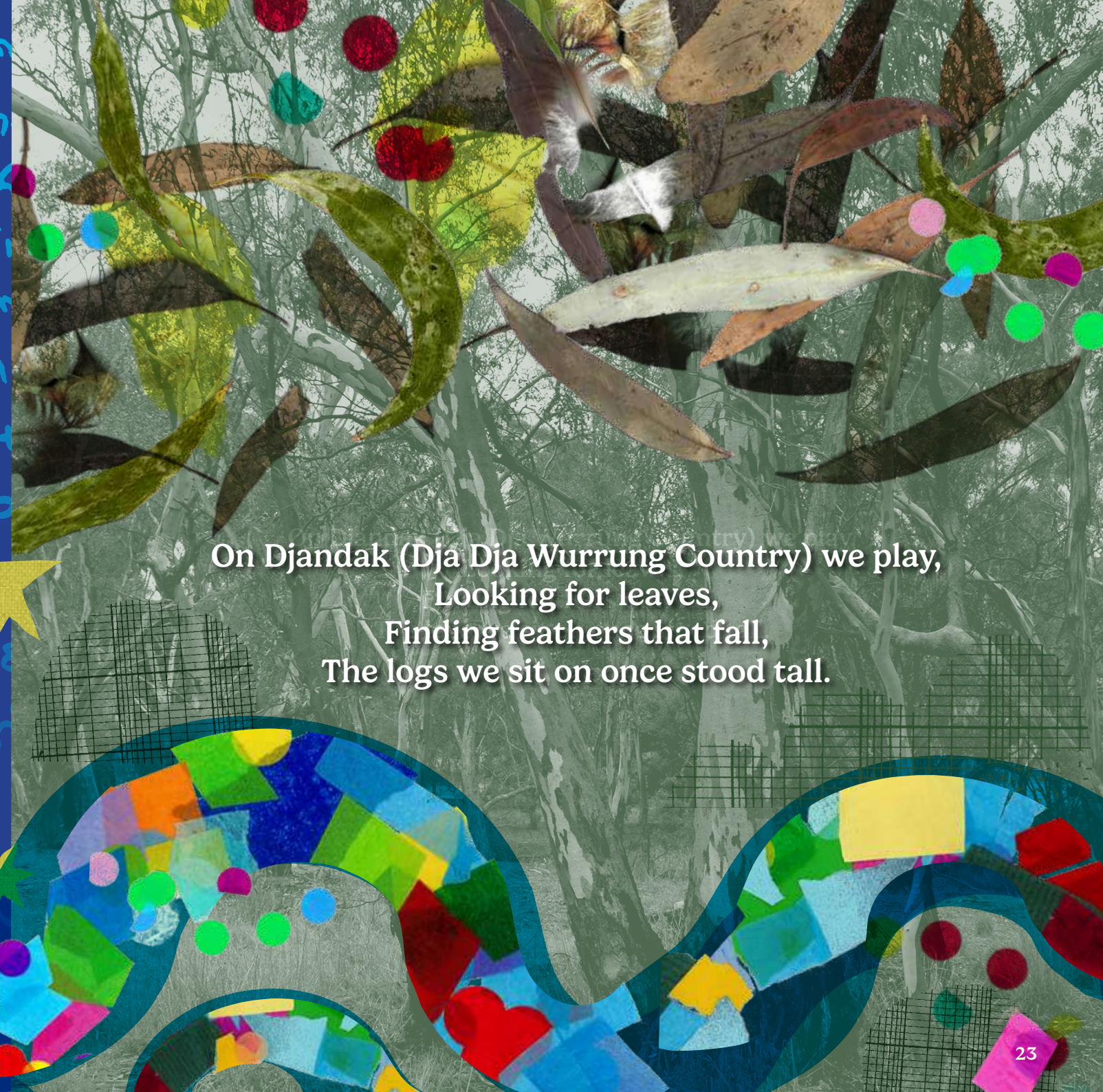
The messy messy that
happens at playgroup



Bella leaves with sixteen dresses



The friendship
It's a language for all countries. I love playgroup



On Djandak (Dja Dja Wurrung Country) we play,
Looking for leaves,
Finding feathers that fall,
The logs we sit on once stood tall.



You might find us in a suburban street,
out in the bush, or even in a hall.

Imagine a place called Playgroup



Imagine a place where you
can run fast as a tiger,
playing indoors and out...
a safe place, a friendly place...
a place called Playgroup.



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