The Great Emu Chase

Maths

- Sequencing: animals in order of events eg, 1st, 2nd, last.
- Ordering: animals in size order; smallest to biggest, tallest etc.
- Number: counting how many animals are in the story.
- Building animal enclosures with wooden blocks; counting, measuring, introducing concepts tall, wide etc.

Safety Points for discussion

- Sun Safety: importance of wearing a hat & sunscreen outdoors.
- Animal Safety: Feeding, patting, touching, entering animal enclosures.
- Community Safety: Staying with an adult when on an outing, stranger danger, holding hands so you don't get lost, what to do if children do get lost.

Science

- Making animal prints - using sand, ink pad, play dough etc.

Discussions:

- Physical abilities of Animals - Can they walk, run, climb, swim, dig, fly?
- Physical Characteristics of animals - Do they have a beak, legs, fur, feathers, teeth, ears, tail etc?
- Food source of animals - Do they eat meat, gum leaves, etc.
- Type of animals - Are they a Mammal, Marsupial, Reptile?

Creative Arts

Art / Craft:

- Making animal face masks from paper plates.
- Decorating animal outlines:
  1. Paint & Paste feathers on emus.
  2. Scrunching grey crepe paper on koalas.
  3. Sticking sawdust on crocodiles.
  4. Felt / fabric/paper collage pieces on wombats.
- Making crocodile tails; fill leg of stocking w scrunched newspaper & paint green. Staple on elastic to tie around child's waste.
- Making stick puppet; colour small animal outlines, cut around edges & tape to coloured pop sticks.

Music & Movement:

- Musical instruments:
  Shaking rain stick: Fast—emu running.
  Beating small drum: Slow—Wombat waddling
- Imitate Actions of animals: climbing, digging, etc.
- Songs:
  Dig, like a wombat
  Old man emu
  Sing-a-song-along
  Never smile at a crocodile

Environment & Community

- Logging & Urban development: the effects that clearing trees in forests is having on Australian animals and their habitats;
  Koalas-
  1.Having to relocate & find new homes
  2.Having limited food source of gum leaves
  3.Being hit by cars / attacked by domestic pets in urban areas.
- Waste management & recycling of household wastes eg, paper, plastics, food etc.
- Keeping parks & waterways clean, putting litter in bins.
- Water conservation: draught, using water sparingly to preserve natural rivers & lakes.

Excursions:

- Local Zoo / Wildlife Park
- Recycling Centre
- Local Park / pond / waterways
- Botanic Gardens

Language & Literature

- Naming native Australian animals v's other animals found in Australia.
- Discussing personality traits of animals: Koala sleepy, emu greedy, crocodile aggressive, wombat stubborn.
- Animal Bag: children to make up alliteration for each animal: emu eating, koalas kissing, crocodile crunching, wombat waddling, etc.
- Recounts / making books based on children's experiences; using photos from excursions and/or childrens drawings.
- Rhyming games: identify words in the story that rhyme & make up other / new words that also rhyme.

track	back	sack
pace	race	…….
fence	tense	…….
luck	stuck	…….

- Felt pieces of animals—children to retell the story using felt board.