

# Shared Storytelling Ideas: Children's Librarians and parents/ carers of children 2-6 years

Use #LibraryStorytime to share your National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) events and follow readers across the country.

## READ

Read the book aloud with your child.

## TALK

Talk together about the story & illustrations.

## PLAY

Play to help build early literacy skills.



Available to borrow from your local library!

### Make a Bowerbird

Fold a paper plate in half and glue on pieces of blue paper, a feathered tail, beak & googly eyes. Fold a sheet of paper like an accordion to make wings & attach through a slit in the plate. Then pretend to be bowerbirds 'searching', 'gliding', 'swooping' to collect blue objects.



### Create a cobalt collage

Mix watercolours to make different shades of blue and paint a backdrop. Then glue on blue & white tissue paper, fabric scraps, magazines and wool. Look closely at the illustrations of sky and sea in the book for colour shade and pattern inspiration.



### Build a 'bower'

Watch this [author video](#) about Satin Bowerbirds. Then use natural, recycled and craft materials (e.g. blue milk bottle lids, ribbon, pipe cleaners, pegs, twigs) to make a 'bower'. Arrange pop sticks in playdough to create a hut shaped structure, then decorate!



Take a deeper dive into the book by reading, reflecting and re-telling the story together through play!

### Play a counting game

After counting the bowerbird's collection in the story, make your own treasure trove using small items in different shades of blue (e.g. Lego, rhinestones, pom poms and buttons). Then use tongs to count and sort into a segmented tray.



### Sing an action song

Tune: 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star'  
Little bird, little bird, fly around,  
Up to the sky, down to the ground.  
Little bird, little bird, flap your wings.  
Open your beak and sweetly sing.  
Little bird, little bird, fly to your nest.  
Now it is time to take a rest.

### Explore bird life cycles

Divide a round piece of cardboard into quarters. Glue on a nest using brown shredded paper and add 'cotton ball' bird eggs. Then colour and attach these [downloadable illustrations](#) of the female bird character and [chicks](#).



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