

The illustration depicts a scene on a beach. In the center, a small, fluffy brown otter pup with a white patch on its chest is walking towards the left. It has large, dark eyes and its mouth is slightly open. To the right, a close-up of an adult otter's face is visible, looking towards the pup. In the foreground, the backs of several other otters' heads are visible, suggesting a group of otters watching the pup. The background shows gentle waves of the ocean meeting the shore. The overall style is a detailed, painterly illustration.

Little Otter, Litter Trouble

Written by Emily Lim

Illustrated by Cheng Puay Koon

The Story of Toby

This book is inspired by the true story of a smooth-coated otter pup that was left behind by his family.

He was subsequently rescued by a member of the public and taken to Singapore Zoo.

The vets nursed him back to health and named him 'Toby'. Once Toby was strong enough, the Zoo staff took him back to the beach where he was reunited with his family.



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About Otters

Smooth-coated otters live in mangrove forests and coastal areas. They are also commonly seen in some of our parks, particularly near waterways.

The oriental small-clawed otter is another otter species that can be sighted around Singapore's offshore island, Pulau Ubin. This otter is the smallest of the 13 species of otters.

Otters were thought to be extinct in Singapore until they were sighted again in the 1990s.

Did You Know?

- Otters live in closely-knit family groups. They use scent to mark their homes and 'talk' to one another. They also make different calls to keep in touch!
- Otters have very sensitive paws and long whiskers to help them sense their surroundings and to hunt for fish, crayfish, crabs, mussels, frogs and even small birds.
- When threatened, adult otters may abandon their pups in their holt. Always keep a respectful distance from otter families.
- 80% of litter on land finds its way to rivers and oceans, polluting the environment and threatening aquatic and marine animals such as otters. We can help by not littering.



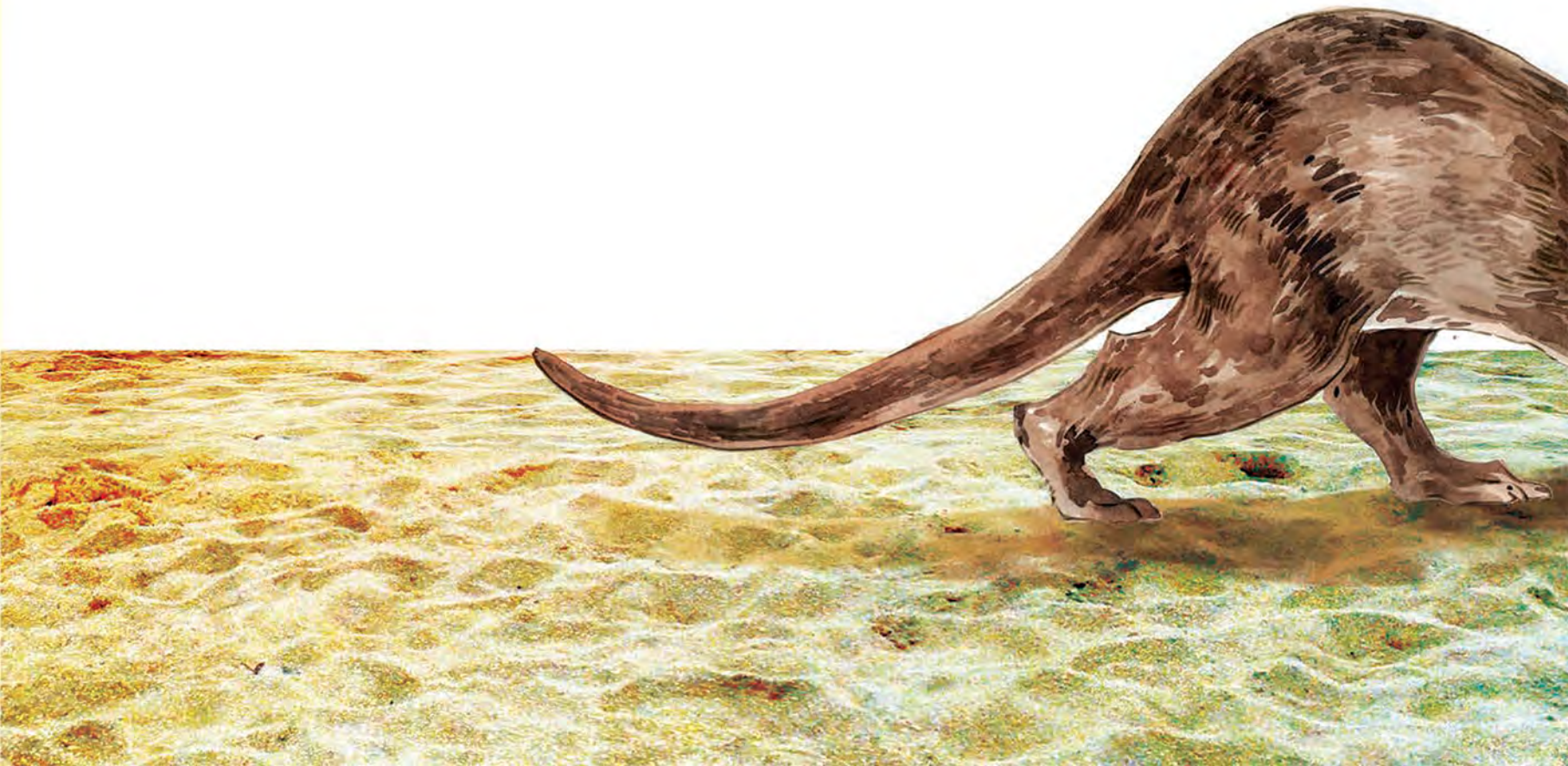
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Wildlife Reserves Singapore Group



3-2-1

Otter Fun

RECOMMENDED FOR PRESCHOOLERS



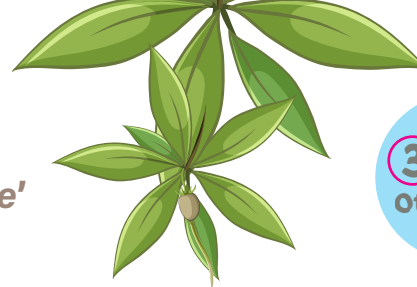
This resource is aligned to Nurturing Early Learners (NEL) framework to support learning outcomes in the following areas:

- **Language and Literacy**
- **Discovery of the World**
- **Social and Emotional Development**



3

ways to use the wordless book 'Little Otter, Litter Trouble' to practise language and literacy skills



3-2-1
Otter Fun

WORD CHALLENGE

Use each spread of the picture book to invite children to come up with 20 words for objects or actions in the picture.

SUGGESTED PROMPTS:

- What colours/shapes do you see?
- What objects do you see?
- What is the dad/girl/boy/otter doing?



THINK-FEEL-CARE THINKING ROUTINE

Turn to pages 8 and 9. Invite children to practise the skill of communicating and perspective taking by verbally describing the characters. Use the prompts below to guide you.

SUGGESTED PROMPTS:

- THINK: Who do you think this person is? What is this person doing?
- FEEL: How you think the otter/child/vet is feeling? Why?
- CARE: If you were the otter/child/vet, what would you care about the most at this moment in the picture?

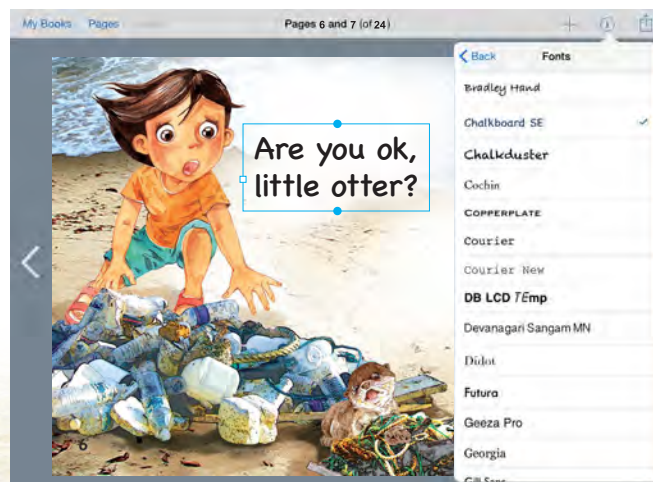


STORY CIRCLE

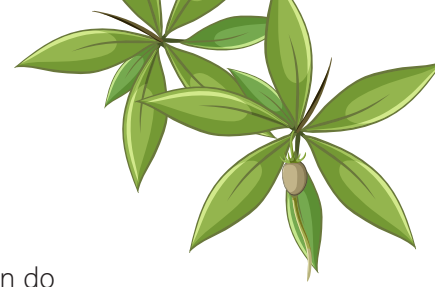
Invite everyone to take turns to verbalise a sentence for each picture in the book. Download a hard copy to pen the sentences or do it virtually at <https://bookcreator.com> using the WRS library code 'MC8SSJP'

SUGGESTED PROMPTS:

- What do you see?
- What do you think they are doing?
- What do you think the person is saying?



2 ways to practise sustainability



How can we help the otters and their friends? Discover what we can do to help wildlife and the Earth through conservation and sustainability efforts.

GIVE IT A SECOND LIFE

Give objects a second life. This reduces the amount of resources needed to make more stuff. It also reduces waste that might end up in our waterways or the beach. The otters and their friends will also have cleaner home to live in!



- Flip to pages 18 and 19. Have children identify objects that they may find at home (e.g. plastic bottles, metal cans).
- Challenge them to gather these objects and upcycle them to pencil holders, flower pots, etc.

RECYCLE RIGHT - SORT YOUR TRASH

Recycling helps to reduce waste.

- Get children to make a list of the waste created at home and in school.
- Set up a recycling corner. Challenge children to sort recyclable waste and place them in the different bins.



1 way to extend the learning

3-2-1
Otter Fun

ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE OTTERS LIVING IN SINGAPORE.

- Gather news clippings on otters in Singapore and facilitate a discussion.
- Organise a learning journey to Singapore Zoo to discover more about the small-clawed otter which is less common than the smooth coated otter, and a critically endangered species in Singapore.

SUGGESTED PROMPTS:

- Where can you spot otters in Singapore?
- What do they eat?
- What threats are they facing?
- What is being done to protect them?
- What can we do to help otters or other wildlife?



smooth coated
otter



small-clawed
otter

