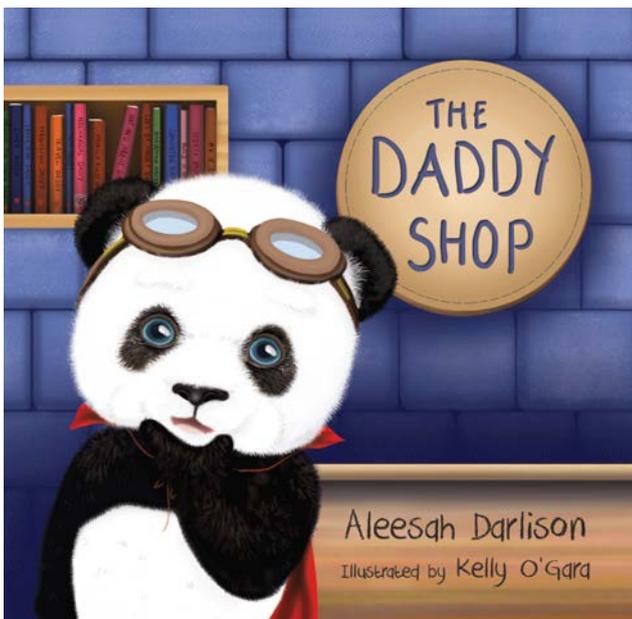




**Wombat Books**  
Stories you'll want to share

## Teaching Notes



### The Daddy Shop

Aleesah Darlison / Kelly O'Gara

ISBN: 978-1925563511

Recommended retail: \$24.99

Reading level: Age 3+ Picture Book

### Book Summary

The Father and Son Picnic is coming up, but Daddy can't go with Tai because he's working. When Tai hears about The Daddy Shop, he takes matters into his own paws and tries out some new daddies. Around-the-House Daddy loves doing chores and Out-and-About Daddy plays all day long. But which daddy will be the best one for Tai?

A big-hearted tale that celebrates daddies everywhere.

Wombat Books, PO Box 1519, Capalaba BC Qld 4157 [www.wombatbooks.com.au](http://www.wombatbooks.com.au)

07-32451938 [info@wombatbooks.com.au](mailto:info@wombatbooks.com.au)

Light the Dark Pty Ltd, Trading as Wombat Books ABN: 30 137 345 941

## Contents

Book Summary	1
Themes	2
Reasons For Studying This Book	2
About the Author	3
About the Illustrator	3
Author Interview	4
National Curriculum Areas	5
Discussion Questions and Activities	6

## Themes

- Parent/Child Relationships • Love • Modern Family • Acceptance
- Imagination • Problem Solving • Appreciation

## Reasons For Studying This Book

*The Daddy Shop* humorously explores the bond between a father and son. It delivers a simple message that the best parents can't be bought, and families should appreciate the time they spend together. The picture book is designed to unite working parents and their children in a fun way and to engage them in discussion about family relationships and the importance of making time to be together.

## About the Author



Aleesah Darlison is an internationally published, award-winning author who writes picture books, chapter books and novels. Her much-loved stories promote courage, understanding, anti-bullying, self-belief, friendship, teamwork and environmental themes.

Since commencing her writing journey, she has published over forty books and has won numerous awards for her writing including an Australian Society of Authors (ASA) mentorship and the Environment Award for Children's Literature (Non-Fiction) for her picture book, *Our Class Tiger*. In 2012, she was shortlisted for the same award for her picture book, *Warambi*.

Her picture books include *Stripes in the Forest: The Story of the Last Wild Thylacine*, *Mama & Hug*, *Spider Iggy*, *Our Class Tiger*, *Little Meerkat*, *Bearly There*, *Puggle's Problem*, *Fox and Moonbeam*, *The Daddy Shop* and *Warambi* (2012 CBCA Notable Book Non-Fiction; 2012 Wilderness Society Award for Children's Literature Shortlist). Her novels and series include *Ash Rover*, *Little Good Wolf*, Netball Gems Series, Totally Twins Series, Little Witch Series and Unicorn Riders Series.

## About the Illustrator



Kelly O'Gara is a Central Coast based illustrator and high school Visual Arts teacher. She has a double degree in Bachelor of Design/Art Education from the College of Fine Arts, UNSW and predominantly works with both traditional and contemporary drawing methods. Kelly's first book, *Do You Remember?*, and latest book, *The Daddy Shop*, were both drawn digitally.

She is particularly interested in creating new and exciting worlds for children to immerse themselves in. With her teaching background, she emphasises the power and importance of imagery. She believes children's books play a vital role in a child's development and help them to make sense of the big, wide world around them.

## Author Interview

### 1. What is the most important thing about parenting for you?

Maintaining positive, open communication with my kids. Having them know that I love them above all else and receiving their love and respect in return.

### 2. Why did you write *The Daddy Shop*?

*The Daddy Shop* is a humorous look at children's often literal, sometimes fickle, viewpoint on parents and their 'availability' to satisfy every child's need. Many parents – not just dads – have to work and this does impact their children, especially if there's a special event on the horizon that the parent can't attend. *The Daddy Shop* is designed to unite working parents and their children in a fun way and to engage them in discussion about family relationships, the importance of making time to be together and, of course, to get families reading together.

### 3. How do you find the balance between a busy work life and spending time with your kids?

It's tricky. I have four children, a busy author career where I travel away from home regularly, and a speakers agency and event management company that I run. When you own your own business, you're always working, always thinking about how you're going to put food on the table. There's no salary that just flows in each and every week just because you turn up.

On the flipside, having your own business can provide flexibility. Every sporting, school, music, art or academic event, I try to attend. If I can't be there, my husband is. The two of us make a good team, we both work from home, we both multi-task and revolve our lives around our kids.

Despite our heavy workloads, I think our kids know that we put them first. If it means we have to work on the weekend or at night to catch up on the time we've missed at our desk because we've been on a rugby field or a netball court, then that's what we do. And we do that a lot ... So, balance ... I'm not sure there is such a thing, but I'm happy with my full life.

## Key Curriculum Areas:

### CURRICULUM AREAS AND KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

#### Foundation Year

(English, Social Science, Visual Arts)

ACELA1429	ACELA1430	ACELA1431	ACELA1432
ACELA1433	ACELA1435	ACELA1434	ACELA1786
ACELA1437	ACELA1439	ACELA1440	ACELA1438
ACELA1817	ACELA1818	ACELA1819	ACELA1820
ACHASSI001	ACHASSI002	ACHASSI004	ACHASSI007
ACHASSI008	ACHASSK001	ACHASSK012	ACAVAM106
ACAVAM107	ACAVAM108	ACAVAM109	

#### Year One

(English, Social Science, Visual Arts)

ACELA1444	ACELA1446	ACELA1787	ACELA1447
ACELA1448	ACELA1449	ACELA1450	ACELA1451
ACELA1452	ACELA1453	ACELA1454	ACELA1457
ACELA1458	ACELA1459	ACELA1778	ACELA1455
ACELA1821	ACELA1822	ACHASSI108	ACHASSI019
ACHASSI021	ACHASSI024	ACHASSI025	ACHASSI027
ACHASSK028	ACHASSK029	ACHASSK031	ACHASSK032
ACHASSK033	ACAVAM106	ACAVAM107	ACAVAM108
ACAVAM109			

#### Year Two

English, Science, Visual Arts

ACELA1460	ACELA1462	ACELA1463	ACELA1464
ACELA1465	ACELA1466	ACELA1467	ACELA1468
ACELA1469	ACELA1470	ACELA1474	ACELA1471
ACELA1472	ACELA1823	ACELA1824	ACELA1825
ACHASSK051	ACHASSI034	ACHASSI035	ACHASSI037
ACHASSI040	ACHASSI041	ACHASSI043	

## Discussion Questions and Activities

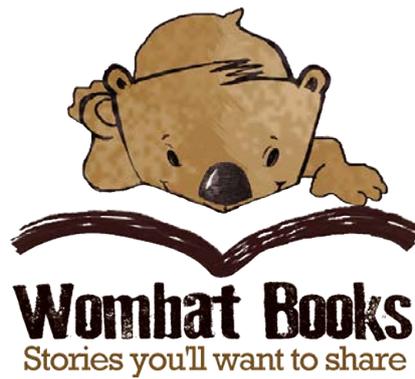
Have the teacher read the book out in class, making sure everyone can see the illustrations. Alternatively, students can take turns at reading each page aloud.

### Pre-reading

1. Before reading, discuss the front cover. What might the book be about? What type of story do you think it will be? I.e. funny? Serious?
2. Discuss the back cover and blurb. What does the blurb tell you about the subject of the book? Does it match the clues you found on the front cover?
3. Does the title of the book give any indication of what the story might be about? Is it a strange title?

### Post-reading

4. Discuss the role of illustrations in picture books. Are there things we only learn from the illustrations, not from the text? Do they enhance the story? How?
5. How is Tai's family different from your family? How is his family the same as yours? Ask students to make a list of similarities and differences.
6. The main characters in this story are a family of pandas. Why do you think Kelly O'Gara chose to draw bears instead of people?
7. Ask students to research pandas. Where do they live in the world? What do they eat? Are pandas endangered? Ask students to make a poster answering these questions and present it to the class.
8. Ask students to think about what their parents do in their jobs. Do their jobs sometimes prevent you from spending time together? How does this make you feel?
9. Why do you think we don't have shops where you can buy new mums and dads? Is this a good idea?
10. Ask students to make a list of the things that make their parents special. Classmates can compare answers.
11. Ask students to write a letter to their parents on how much they appreciate them. Students can take these home at the end of the day in envelopes for their parents.
12. Do you remember a special time spent with your family? Ask students to write a recount of a special memory shared with their family. i.e. it could be going on a picnic, hugs in bed, etc.
13. Create craft pandas with your students. Go to the link: <https://creativefamilyfun.net/cardboard-tube-panda-craft>.



*The Daddy Shop Teaching Notes can be used in schools (independent learning, small groups, and whole classes); at home with caregivers; and as part of mental health support programs facilitated by counsellors, psychologists, children's charities, etc.*

## Connect with Wombat Books

Phone: 07 3245 1938

Website: [www.wombatbooks.com.au](http://www.wombatbooks.com.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/wombatbooks](http://www.facebook.com/wombatbooks)

