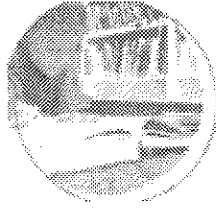


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Page 1 of 3

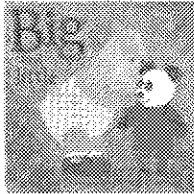


book

by Louise Planner and David Witt

***Big and Little* by Donna Rawlins, Random House, h/b, RRP \$24.95**

Shiplee is excited when his parents give him a beautiful shiny red tricycle, and Gwendoline is excited when her parents give her a beautiful shiny blue pedal car, but... neither of them quite fit. This scenario will be



deeply familiar to anyone with preschool children in their lives, and the outcome is a delightful one. Donna Rawlins has an acute understanding of children in all her books, and these children, a little panda and a little but big hippo, are no exception. When Shiplee's feet don't reach the pedals, he plays with the wrapping paper, and when Gwendoline can't quite squeeze into her car, she plays with the horn instead. Of course, when they meet each other at playgroup, all is resolved but not in the obvious way. There is in this book an astute observation of the way children play, and as nice as a new trike or car can be, it's a rather good reminder about what is really important in a small child's life. This is a compact, cheerful book, with deliciously coloured pages that are a joy to turn over; happy patterns, checks and spots adorn the characters and add to their charm. There is something interesting on each page and the higgledy-piggledy type echoes the mobility of the text. Highly recommended for 0 to 5 year olds. **LP**

***Ella Kazoo Will Not Brush Her Hair* written by Lee Fox, illustrated by Cathy Wilcox, Lothian Books, h/b, RRP \$27.95**



Every day is a bad hair day for Ella Kazoo because she will not let her mother brush her hair. And can you blame her, when her hair is a thick thatch of swirling curls. Author Lee Fox takes this simple and familiar theme, and develops its variations in satisfyingly repetitive rhymes - "hair, stair, bear, despair; locks, socks, rocks, fox..." even including great Australianisms such as "tizz", "squiz" and "frizz". But when Ella's hair develops a mind of its own, the rhyme scheme changes tempo, building up to a climax that is bad news for the errant hair but good news for Ella and her mother. This is a delightful story and fun to read out loud. Ella is a wonderfully exuberant character, perfectly captured in all her histrionic glory by Cathy Wilcox. But as vivid and real as Ella Kazoo is, her hair is even more so - an original picture-book creation. Highly recommended for ages 4 to 8. **DW**