

Learning possibilities

Text: Carle, E 1971, *Do you want to be my friend?*, Hamilton, London.

Engage

Step 1. If you have this book at home, encourage your child/children to predict what the story is about from the cover. If not use the suggested video link pause the video if using online and watch the story together.

Step 2. Gather your child/children for a story using the song, 'If you want to hear a story'.

Step 2. Explain that the story is a picture book without words and the pictures tell the story. Invite children to predict what the story is about from the cover.

Step 3. Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.

1. Find the animal that makes this noise ... (encourage children to look through the book or call out 'stop' during the video)
2. Which animal was the biggest?
3. What was the little mouse trying to do?
4. How do you think the little mouse felt when he found another mouse? Why?

Respond

Talk about the idea of friendship and the behaviours we use that show friendship, for example: sharing toys, waiting for a turn, helping someone when they are sad, offering to help, accepting when someone doesn't want to play. These ideas help children to understand emotions and learn how to manage their own emotions. Draw your child/children's attention to positive behaviour, for example: 'Jack's being a great friend, he's waiting patiently for Millie to finish her turn.'

Extend

- Talk about the animals in the story and explore the movements that each of the animals might make.
- Play the musical version of the story and help your child/children to sing along and keep the beat using rhythm sticks or hands/feet.
- Encourage your child/ children to use the 'Do you want to be my friend?' sequence cards to retell the story.

Resources

Song

'If you want to hear a story'

(Tune: 'If you're happy and you know it')

If you want to hear a story, come sit down,

If you want to hear a story, come sit down.

Let's share a great big smile, as we read and talk a while,

It's time to hear a story, come sit down.

'If you're friendly and you know it'

(Tune: 'If you're happy and you know it')

If you're friendly and you know it, clap your hands

If you're friendly and you know it, clap your hands

If you're friendly and you know it, then your face will surely show it!

If you're friendly and you know it, clap your hands!

Video

Do You Want to be my Friend (YouTube, Darren Robert McTurk) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9h_q_ulqqDY

Do You Want to Be My Friend? w/ ANIMAL Sounds & Music (YouTube, Mrs Clark's Reading Corner)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ke4fi2qwLlw>