

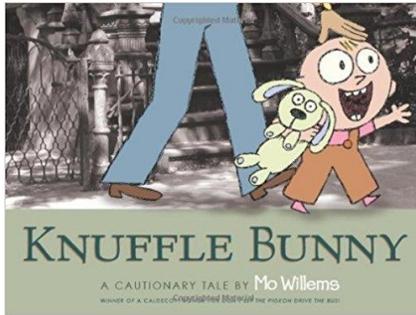


SEEDS for Story Time

Promoting Social Emotional Development Through Books

Knuffle Bunny

By Mo Willems



Trixie, Daddy, and Knuffle Bunny take a trip to the neighborhood Laundromat. But the exciting adventure takes a dramatic turn when Trixie realizes *somebunny* was left behind. Using a combination of muted black-and-white photographs and expressive illustrations, this stunning book tells a brilliantly true-to-life tale about what happens when Daddy's in charge and things go terribly, hilariously wrong. (Ages 3-6)

Introducing this book to young children:



CLL5.3a

As you introduce the book and title, ask children if they have a favorite stuffed animal. You could allow children to bring in their favorite stuffed animal on the day you introduce this story. Ask them why this is their favorite animal.



CLL5.3a

As you introduce the book and title, ask children what they think would happen if they left their favorite stuffed animal at a store. How would you feel? Would your family go back to help you find it?



SED3.3C

Ask the children, "Why do you think the little girl left her bunny at the laundromat?" Encourage them to explain their reasoning using the word "because" to make the link to cause and effect.



SED1.4b

Use the story to talk about bunnies. Show children pictures and/or videos of bunnies. Ask children how it makes them feel to see these bunnies. Does it make you feel happy? nervous? excited? Talk about how things can make each of us feel differently.



SED2.3b

Talk with children about what it means to lose something. Ask them if they've ever lost something and needed help to find it. Have them share their stories of what they lost and how they were able to find it. Ask how they felt when they realized they had lost something and while they were looking for it.

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Repeated readings of the same book provides opportunities for preschoolers to develop a sense of competence and confidence. Children learn to point at and label pictures, turn pages, discuss the story, and make predictions of what will happen next, while learning new words and relating the story to their own experiences. Read *Knuffle Bunny* for several days in a row and use some of the ideas, activities, and teaching opportunities listed below to enhance social and emotional skills.



GELDS Activity Spotlight

Set up a clothesline and give the children lots of washcloths and a basin of water. Add child-safe soap if wanted. Encourage the children to swish the washcloths in the water, wring them out and hang on the clothesline with clothespins. If the weather is warm, this activity can be taken outside. **SED5.3b**

Centers

Create a laundry matching game. Using construction paper, trace and cut out simple shirt and shorts designs. You can make this into a literacy or math game. For a literacy matching game, place capital letters on the shirts and lower case on the shorts. To turn this into a math matching game you can place numbers on the shirt and corresponding number of dots on the shorts.

CLL7.4a

Small Group

Art

Give each child a large piece of sturdy white art paper to create their own Knuffle Bunny. Provide them with light green, light blue, white and black paint. Before beginning, talk with children about the different shapes of Knuffle Bunny; large oval for the body, small ovals for arms and legs. Allow children to look at pictures in the book as they paint. Once their creations are dry give children scissors to cut out their Knuffle Bunny. **CLL7.4a**

Dramatic Play

Create a laundromat in your dramatic play area. You can use a large box to create a washing machine. Provide children with a variety of clothes, empty laundry soap containers and a laundry basket. If you have the space, create a clothes line for children to hang clothes with clothes pins.

APL4.3a

Focus on Family

Families can help children practice matching skills while doing laundry. After washing the socks of all the members of the family, empty the clean socks into a pile. Have your child find matching socks and place them as matched pairs into the basket. Talk about these concepts: pair, matching, same and different. **APL5.2a**

Place a familiar object, such as your keys, somewhere in the house and tell your child you can't find it and you need their help. Tell your child, "Whenever I can't find something, I need to retrace my steps. Help me remember, what did we do first when we came home?" "What did we do next?" Continue until you "find" your keys. **CD-SS5.4a**

