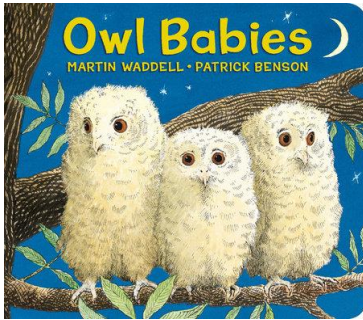




# SEEDS for Story Time

## Promoting Social Emotional Development Through Books



### *Owl Babies*

By Martin Waddell

**T**hree baby owls awake one night to find their mother gone, and they can't help but wonder where she is. What is she doing? When will she be back? Stunning illustrations from striking perspectives capture the anxious little owls as they worry. Not surprisingly, joyous flapping and dancing and bouncing greet the mother's return, lending a celebratory tone to the ending of this comforting tale. Never has the plight of young ones who miss their mother been so simply told or so beautifully rendered. (Ages 3-5)

### Introducing this book to young children:



CLL5.1c

Before reading the book encourage the children to look at the cover of the book. Ask, "What do you think this book is about? What makes you think that?" Talk about the children's knowledge of owls. "Has anyone ever seen an owl? What sound do owls make? Where do owls live?"



CD-SC2.4c

Generate a discussion about the difference between day and night. Name a variety of daytime and nighttime activities, such as eating breakfast, going to school, taking a bath and going to sleep. When you call out each of the activities, encourage the children to indicate when each activity normally occurs (daytime or nighttime). Have the children name specific activities that occur during the day or night in their homes. Use a chart to record their responses.



SED2.4b

Before reading the book, talk about what it means to miss someone and feel alone or lonely. Ask the children if they have ever missed someone. How did they feel? What did they do to feel better? Ask the children if they can think of a time when someone might feel all alone because they miss someone special. Ask the children if they sometimes miss someone when they come to school? Tell the children that you are going to read a book about three little owls. Read the title of the book while showing the cover and see if the children can guess who the little owls miss.



SED5.4d

Discuss how to tell if a friend is feeling alone (they may cry, sit by herself and what to do to make him feel happy again. Ask what the children would do if one of their friends felt alone and lonely.

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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 *Owl Babies* 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

### Math

Paste photos of the children in your class displaying various emotions onto a file folder making sure to glue down all sides! Cut the feeling faces into 2, 3 or 4 large pieces. Go back and check to see if areas of the page need to be re-glued. You can laminate or contact paper the pieces of the puzzle so they are more durable! Store each feeling Face Puzzle in a separate zip lock bag labeled with the emotion. Let the children attempt to put the puzzles together! To keep it organized, you can glue the feeling faces on different colored paper so that your puzzle pieces will be colored coded and easy to regroup if pieces accidentally get mixed up! **SED2.3b**

### Dramatic Play

Use the dramatic play area to set up a nighttime campground. Put black paper on the walls and ceiling (if possible), with a moon and stars. Add a tent, camping supplies and flashlights. Provide books about the moon, the stars, and clouds, day and night that the children can read in their sleeping bags. **CD-SC2.4c**

### Music

Ask the children if they remember how little owls felt when they realized their mommy wasn't there. Help the children create a song about what to do when they are feeling alone. For example, they could sing, "If you're happy and you know it," but create their own words to the song. Children can give suggestions for what they can do to feel better when they are lonely. For example: "If you're lonely and you know it tell your teacher/ ask for a hug/ check the schedule/find a friend." Write the children's song on chart paper and then sing the song together. If someone is feeling lonely, ask them to think of the song and all of the things that they can do to feel better. **SED2.4c**

## Focus on Family

Send home a paper plate, photos of different emotion faces, a glue stick or tape, arrow, and a brad fastener in a sandwich baggie. Print the directions below and include them with the materials.

Divide the plate into six sections. Label each section with a different emotion such as happy, mad, grumpy, sleepy, shy, and worried and a picture. Attach an arrow with a brass fastener and have the children turn it to indicate how they are feeling throughout the day. Families can talk about how feelings change and move the meter as child's feeling change. **SED2.3b**

