



Owl Babies

By Martin Waddell

Things to Get Ready:

1. 5"x8" unlined index cards
2. ink stamp or thinned paint to make thumbprints
3. 5 or more twigs per child
4. glue

Getting the children ready to listen:

Make sure the children are grouped in front of you so they all can see the book. Chant or sing the song that you routinely sing before listening to a story.

For example:
(to the tune of London Bridges)

All the children sitting down
Sitting down, sitting down
All the children sitting down
To wait for the story

All the hands are in their laps
In their laps, in their laps
All the hands are in their laps
To wait for the story

(Continue substituting any rules for story time)

Reading-Aloud Guide

Before you read the book:

1. Show the cover of the book and read the title, author and illustrator.
2. Let's listen to see what problem the baby owls have.

During reading:

1. Show the title page and ask children what time of day it is. Ask children why they think the story takes place at night.
2. Throughout the book, use your voice differently when each owl speaks.
3. Encourage the children to join in every time Bill says, "I want my mommy!"

After reading:

1. Ask the children what problem the owl babies had.
2. Asked which owl seemed the oldest /youngest. What makes them think that?
3. Ask the children if the owl babies' problem gets solved (fixed) by the end of the book. How does it get solved?
4. Encourage children to talk about their favorite parts.
5. Teach the children the following poem and then ask them how the poem is like the story:

Listen to the Owl Babies *adopted Traditional African*

*Listen to the owl baby
Crying in the night
Crying for his mammy
In the pale moonlight,*

*What will his mammy do
When she hears him cry?
She'll tuck him in a cocoa-pod,
And sing a lullaby.*

Extension Activity

Make a counting booklet

1. Prepare five pages for each child.
2. Have twigs available for each child. Or have children find their own twigs.
3. Have the children glue a twig to each of their pages.
4. On the first page have each child press his/her thumb into the inkpad or thinned paint and then press it on the twig or in the nest. This thumbprint represents one owl.
5. Ask the children to find examples of numbers 1 through 5 in the classroom. They can use this as a model when they write their own numbers.
6. At the bottom of the first page have the child write the numeral "1".
7. Continue each page as above, increasing the number of owls and the numeral by one. The last page will show five owls sitting on the twig or in the nest with the numeral "5" at the bottom of the page.
8. When the prints are dry have each child use a skinny black marker to make eyes and a beak on each thumbprint owl.
9. Make a cover for the booklet and staple together.

• Related Books

Where's My Teddy?

by Jez Alborough

The Runaway Bunny

by Margaret Wise Brown

The Good-bye Book

by Judith Yiorst

The Kissing Hand

by Audrey Penn

No Matter What

by Debi Gliori

Maybe She Forgot

by Ellen Kandoian