

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Nubby

Written by Dan Richards
Illustrated by Shanda McCloskey

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Nubby the stuffed bunny is angry because he feels unloved and unappreciated. He decides to leave and see where he can be happier. Why does he miss his home? What is it that keeps Nubby's thoughts on his boy and his old family? Will Nubby ever figure it out?

Genre: Picture

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Nubby* to introduce in your classroom:

ignore	uncanny
appreciate	cherish
venture	wealth

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Approaches To Learning
Item B (*Problem solving with materials*)

Social And Emotional
Development
Item D (*Emotions*),
Item H (*Conflict resolution*)

Creative Arts
Item X (*Art*),
Item AA (*Pretend play*)

Social Studies
Item GG
(*Geography*)

Reading Tips

Take on the tone of Nubby as you read. For example, when Nubby is irritated, sound irritated. Ask the children, "Why do you think Nubby does not feel *appreciated* by the boy?" As Nubby searches for anyone to *appreciate* him ask children how other animals and people see him. Offer time for a conversation about how to take Nubby's perspective while noticing on several pages the boy searching for him to also take the boy's perspective.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Have a “bring your lovey to school day” to introduce at **Greeting Time**. Encourage each child to tell why they *appreciate* this stuffed animal.

Have “real vs. not real” items and pictures for children to sort for **Small Group Time**.

Hop like bunnies for **transitions**.

Use simple classroom maps and refer to the neighborhood map on the inside cover of the story for **Planning** and **Recall Times**.

Around the Room

Highlight the book’s content and build on the children’s excitement in a variety of locations.

Add doctor and magic show props to the **House Area**.

Add material pieces and stuffing to the **Art Area** for children to create a stuffed toy or pillow.

Have water and dirt at the **Sand and Water Area** for the children to create mud of various thickness and textures.

Encourage road and house building in the **Block Area**. Use the map in the story for inspiration.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one “right” answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Nubby*:

Why do the rabbits ignore Nubby?

Why does the boy’s brother bring Nubby back home?

How would you feel if your favorite toy was found ripped and dirty? What would you do?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact **The Family Connection:***

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
@famconnsjc

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Nubby* with their child. Here’s a sample message you can send:

Make a point as you read to acknowledge how the boy reacts to Nubby’s departure. As Nubby feels ignored and not appreciated, his absence is felt by the boy. Ask questions about the fun the boy is having but Nubby’s face/expression is not the same as the boy’s. “What does it mean when the boy is smiling and Nubby is frowning?” This story can start a dialogue about what *wealth* is, and how important it is to tell those in our lives how important they are to us. Nubby is actually already *rich* and doesn’t realize it until it is almost too late. In the story, it says “...now he cherished every moment of (being with the boy).” Ask your child, “What do you cherish?”