

Just My Friend and Me

by Mercer Meyer

Another addition from the ever popular Little Critter series. There are so many wonderful things you can do with a friend, but sometimes it is also fun to be by yourself.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What kind of things do you like to do with your friend?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder what they are going to do together?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Just My Friend and Me*

- Louisville Slugger: a type of baseball bat, used in college and in MLB
- chase: to rush around in order to catch something
- contest: competition to find the best
- daredevil: risk-taker, someone who performs a dangerous stunt

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why does he ask his mom if a friend could come over?
- What are some things the two friends like to do together?
- Why do they not use a ladder?
- What happened to the racing cars?
- What happened to the swing?
- Why is it dangerous to stand on the seat of a bike?
- Who took care of their cuts and bruises?
- What should the friend be doing, instead of reading comic books?
- What does he do after his friend leaves?
- Who is standing behind him while he is watching television?

Do

Game Time

To teach children about sharing, fair game play, conflict resolution and how to work together, you can play several large or small group games. For example: in a large group you could play BINGO, Red Light/Green Light, Simon Says, etc. With small groups the children can put a puzzle together, play memory, make a tower out of blocks or linking cubes or draw a picture on the same large sheet of paper. Use this time to model good behavior, proper conflict resolution techniques and how the children can work together and have fun.

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