

Do You Want to Be My Friend?

By Eric Carle

A mouse asks many animals to be its friend, and finally finds one in the end.

BEFORE READING:

- Show the children the front of the book. Ask them to guess what the book is about.
- Ask them what they see on the front cover.
- Ask them if the elephant would be their friend.

WHILE READING:

- Stop at any time if there is something you or the children would like to talk about.
- Ask them questions so that they can connect what is happening in the book to things they already know about. Try some of these ideas:
 - ⇒Have you ever asked someone to be your friend?
 - ⇒What do you and your friends like to do?
 - ⇒What kind of animals have you seen that have tails?

AFTER READING:

Spend some time talking about the story. Ask the children things like:

- ⇒What kinds of animals did you see in this book?
- ⇒Which animal did you like best?
- ⇒Which animal would you want for a friend?
- ⇒How did the mouse feel when other animals did not want to be her friend?

Read this book several times to the children. Hearing the same story again and again helps them learn new words and understand the ideas they hear better. Each day, pick a different activity to do with the children after reading “Do You Want to Be My Friend?”

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MATH AND SCIENCE

Have each child draw the tail of a favorite animal. Then, have the class look at each picture and guess what animal belongs to that tail. Provide pictures of animals, and match each tail to its animal.

READING READINESS

Write out the word “friend” in big letters. Have the children try to think of animals that start with each letter in the word “friend.” For example, they might come up with “flamingo, rhinoceros, iguana, elephant, narwhal, dog.” Then, have the children come up with an animal that starts with the same letter as the first letter of their name.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Have the children pretend they do not know the other children in the classroom. Pair the children up, and have the two partners introduce themselves, saying “Hi, I’m ___, will you be my friend?” Once both partners become “friends,” have them hold hands. Then have each pair find another pair and introduce themselves. Then the two pairs should hold hands. Continue this until the entire class is holding hands, and they are all friends.

MOTOR SKILLS

Have the children play a game of Animal Twister. Place animal pictures on the ground in rows. Call out a command, such as “right hand,

mouse” and have the children follow the command (the children should put their right hand on the mouse picture). For younger children, leave out right/left commands.

THINKING SKILLS

As you read the story, have the children guess which animal comes next. Have them describe the tails of the different animals. Ask them which tails have fur and which have feathers. After you finish the story, ask which animals in the book can they remember. Ask them which was their favorite and why.

ART

Have the children imagine they are a special mouse and talk about what animals they might ask to be their friend. Give the children paper and coloring utensils to draw pictures of the different animals they would ask. Help them write the animal’s name on each page. You can help them staple their pictures together to make their own “Do You Want to Be My Friend?” book.

PRETEND PLAY

Have the children pretend to be different animals from the book. Have them scurry around on the floor and wiggle their noses like mice. Have them stomp around and hang their arms down like a trunk and make elephant noises.

