

Have You Seen My Duckling?

By Nancy Tafuri

A young duckling hides from its mother. The mother duck and her other babies search the pond, asking animals, “Have you seen my duckling?”

BEFORE READING:

- Show the children the front of the book. Ask them to guess what the book is about.
- Ask them if they know what kind of animal is on the front cover. Name it for them if they don't know. Ask where this animal lives.
- Ask them to count (or count with you) the ducklings on the cover of the book.

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 lost something?
 - ⇒What types of animals have you seen at a pond?
 - ⇒The ducks are swimming in the pond. Where do you like to swim?
 - ⇒The mother and her ducklings sleep in a nest. Where do you like to sleep?

AFTER READING:

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

- ⇒Where did the missing duckling hide?
- ⇒How do you think the mother duck felt when her baby was missing?
- ⇒What animals did the duck family visit?

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 “Have You Seen My Duckling?”

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MATH AND SCIENCE

Pick a page and have the children count the number of animals on that page. Have them describe the colors of some of the pond animals.

READING READINESS

Have the children look at the cover of the book. Ask them what they think this book will be about. Have them pick one of the letters they see on the cover. Talk about what the letter is and what it sounds like. Have them copy the sound. Go around the house or classroom to find 4 or 5 things that begin with that letter.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Hide an object in the room that has been designated as the “duckling.” Ask the children to search for the object together. As they look in a new place, have them say “Are you my duckling?” until they find the object. If they have trouble, give clues or play “hot or cold” to help find the duckling.

MOTOR SKILLS

Pretend that you are the mother duck and the children are ducklings. Have the children walk behind you in a line. Walk facing forward, but periodically turn around to look at the line saying “Have you seen my duckling?”. Have the children squat down when they hear this cue. Have them try to squat before you turn around.

Continue walking and turning around as the children try to dodge your glance.

THINKING SKILLS

Go through the book again and have the children search for the hidden duckling on each page by themselves. If they need help, look for them together or give them clues to make it easier.

ART

Have the children draw or paint pond pictures. Have them add pond animals from the story, and other animals they have seen at the pond. Allow each child to tell you stories about their pond pictures.

PRETEND PLAY

Pretend the space in the room is a pond. Have each child pretend to be a pond animal. Pick a couple of children to be the “ducklings” in each round, and ask them to hide throughout the room. Have the pond animals search for the missing ducklings.

