

Owl Babies

By Martin Waddell

Three baby owls wait anxiously for their mother to return in this heartwarming story.

BEFORE READING:

- Show the children the front of the book. Ask them to guess what the book is about.
- Point to the animals on the front cover. Ask the children to tell you what they are.
- Look at the back cover. Ask the children to tell you what is on the back.

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 had to wait for your mother before?
 - ⇒What was she doing while you waited for her to come back?
 - ⇒What did you do while you waited for her?

AFTER READING:

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

- ⇒What did the baby owls do while they waited for their mother?
- ⇒Where did the mother go?
- ⇒What happened to the owl family at the end of the story?

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 “Owl Babies”.

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MATH AND SCIENCE

Count the number of owls on each page as you read the book together. Cover up one of the owls on the page with your hand, and ask them to tell you how many owls they see. On another page, have them cover up two owls with their hands and then tell you how many are left.

READING READINESS

Ask them to wait for you quietly while you take attendance, write on the bulletin board or take care of something else. When you are finished, talk to them about how it felt to wait for you. Ask them to tell you what they did (even if you could see them) and what they were feeling or thinking while they waited.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Make up a silly song about waiting together. The next time you are waiting in a line at lunch or to go outside, sing your waiting song together. Include lines in your song such as "I've been waiting for a really long time for (whatever you're waiting for), and I don't know when I'll be done. I'm glad I got to wait here for (whatever you're waiting for), with my special little someone."

MOTOR SKILLS

Practice balancing like owls on a branch. Try crouching down on both feet with knees bent. Stand straight and try standing on one leg, and then the other. Stretch your wings and flap them too.

THINKING SKILLS

Ask the children to tell you what they think an owl looks and feels like. Using the pictures in the book as a guide, ask them to describe the feathers and how they might feel. Ask them questions about the owl's beak and its wings.

ART

Talk about the color of the owls in the book to teach them about new colors. Look for the same colors that were in the book in the room, on children's clothing or on a walk.

PRETEND PLAY

Pretend to be the mama owl and her baby. Flap your arms to "fly" around the room. Balance on one leg and then the other on a pretend bench. Be sure to hoot, too!