

This book shows different interactions and moments that can spark joy in a child’s life. It provides many chances to ask children to share their own ideas.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

COMMUNICATE



Children will:

- ◆ Answer simple questions
- ◆ Participate in conversation using babbling, gestures, words, or signs

Teachers will:

- ◆ Maintain back-and-forth exchanges

TEACHING TIP

To support children’s quickly developing language skills during book readings, leave space for them to interact in whatever way they choose (verbally or nonverbally). This can mean encouraging children to point things out on the pages or to share their ideas with words. For older toddlers, you can build in opportunities for them to make predictions about what comes next or talk about what happened. As children participate, repeat their ideas back to them and expand on what they tell you. This models communication and encourages children to continue expressing their ideas with you.

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “What makes you happy? It makes me happy to say good morning to each of you, and to see you smiling at me. We’re going to talk about what else makes us happy as we read this book, *My Heart Fills with Happiness*.”

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause occasionally to support 2-3 back and forth exchanges about children’s interests.
- ◆ Pause and wait expectantly for children to have the chance to respond verbally or nonverbally.

Maintain Back-and-Forth Exchanges

Read: “I see the face of someone I love”

Support: “Who do you love? *(Pause and wait expectantly for children to respond)* I also love my family. Does it make you happy to see your family?” *(Pause and wait for responses.)*

Read: “I sing”

Support: “Do you like to sing? *(Pause and wait expectantly for children to respond)* Me too! What songs do you like to sing?” *(Pause for children to respond.)*

Read: “I listen to stories”

Support: “I wonder if you are happy to be listening to this story today... *(Pause and wait expectantly for children to respond)*. I see your smiling faces, I’m happy to read with you too! What’s your favorite story to read together?” *(Pause for children to respond.)*

3. REVIEW

- ◆ “You told me about the things you like today, like singing and listening to stories. We talked together about the things that make us happy.”

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Continue the conversational turn-taking that this book sets up by discussing other books together in small groups, or one-on-one depending on interest. If a child is particularly interested in one book, don’t speed through reading it (even if it’s the fifth time they’ve asked for that book today!). Instead, keep book readings engaging by choosing different communication exchanges each time. Each reading can be different by changing up the questions you ask and the exchanges you focus on (e.g., next time, focus on talking about emotions, or talk with children about what the characters are doing in the book). This allows children to get the repetition they crave, while supporting language skills and keeping the story engaging for everyone involved.