

This book features a mother and child who imagine transforming into different versions of themselves over time. It lends itself to showing symbolic representation of the idea of parent and child, as well as growing up.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

THINK



Children will:

- ◆ See different images as representing something else

Teachers will:

- ◆ Narrate imitation and representation and label symbols

TEACHING TIP

Symbolic representation revolves around the idea that images and actions can represent ideas and processes. Young children begin to practice imitation themselves as they begin to understand real world ideas through play. Engaging and supporting in pretend play supports children’s development of imitation and symbolic thought. Children practice imitating ideas through pretend roles and think more deeply about an idea by using one object to stand for another. Modeling roleplay, labeling symbols, and encouraging the use of props are all ways to further support this skill.

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “What sort of sound does a sheep make? (*Model a sheep sound*). What about a bear? (*Model a bear sound*). Today we’re going to read *Nosotros Means Us*. We’ll see a mother and a child act like different animals together. They have different ways of showing that they are always mom and child.”

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause occasionally to narrate the imitation and representation of both the mother and child.
- ◆ Label the symbol of each animal when they show mother or child.

Narrate Imitation & Representation & Label Symbols

Read: “You would be a foal”

Label: “A foal is a baby horse. The mother and child are pretending to be a horse and foal.”

Narrate: “The mother is still the child’s parent, even when they pretend to be animals.”

Read: “And one day you would hop away”

Label: “The mother is pretending to be a rabbit, and the child is pretending to be a bunny. The child is pretending to hop away from the mother.”

Narrate: “The mother is thinking about the child hopping away to grow up.”

Read: “We would always be mother and child”

Label: “The child is pretending to be a deer all by themselves now.”

Narrate: “Even though the mother and child are pretending to be different animals now, they are still together!”

3. REVIEW

- ◆ “The mother and child pretended to be animals together. They pretended to be the same kind of animal until the child grew up, and then they pretended they were different types of animals.”

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Incorporate pretend play opportunities throughout the room. Provide materials that allow children to imitate actions, such as baby dolls and bottles, and open-ended materials that allow children to symbolize ideas, such as using a box as a car.