

Listening and Understanding

This book is about a bird who learns to accept and embrace its unique qualities. The story line allows opportunities for children to remember key events and how they are related.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

COMMUNICATE



Children will:

- ◆ Attend to, understand, and respond to communication

Teachers will:

- ◆ Ask children to summarize or retell information

TEACHING TIP

To understand a story, children (and adults) must create a mental picture of what is happening and how events are related. Pausing to ‘talk to’ the story in a way that summarizes key details and/or links details across pages is a way to support story comprehension. The conversations that come from talking through a story in this way means that no two readings are the same. You can repeat this practice with the same book and see what new information children recall and are interested in each time. Every repetition helps build the skills children need to comprehend stories.

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “This book is called *Oddbird*. It’s about a bird who doesn’t look or act like the other birds. We know that our differences make us unique or special. We can look different from our friends and still have fun together. Let’s read and talk about what happens in the story.”

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause 3 times to ask children to describe what is happening in the story.
- ◆ Acknowledge their responses and make a summary comment linking current events to previous events.

Ask Children to Summarize or Retell Information

Read: “Oddbird flew away as fast as he could.”

Ask: “Tell me about the Oddbird. What’s happening?”

Acknowledge and Summarize: “Yes, Oddbird is flying away because the other birds told him to leave. They were not kind because Oddbird doesn’t look or act like them.”

Read: “It was a fabulous bird with colors galore.”

Ask: “What’s happening?”

Acknowledge and Summarize: “Oddbird wanted to look like the other birds. So, he made his own colorful feathers.”

Read: “Oddbird was having too much fun to be worried.”

Ask: “What’s happening?”

Acknowledge and Summarize: “Oddbird jumped into the pool and his feathers fell off. He looked like himself again. And he was happy to be swimming in the cool water.”

3. REVIEW

- ◆ “This book was about a bird who didn’t look or act like any other birds. You helped tell the story to me!”

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Many children love to share stories from their lives, from what they did over the weekend to what they dreamed about last night. Listen closely, ask questions, and summarize what you heard to model active listening skills. You can also prompt children to listen closely and think about the information they’ve heard from one another, and even retell one another’s stories!