

YOU ARE (NOT) SMALL

Listening and Understanding

Preschool

This simple story is about two creatures who compare their sizes. The basic 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 and answer questions

TEACHING TIP

The ability to consider characters' thoughts, feelings, and motivations are critical to creating a coherent understanding of the story. Questions can prompt children to do this, however, sometimes it is quite difficult for young children to take the perspective of the characters. Pairing literal questions and comments with higher order questions provide support to children by drawing attention to key facts important to perspective-taking and understanding character motivation.

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ "This book is called *You Are (Not) Small*. It is about two creatures who compare their sizes with one another and argue about who is big and who is small."

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ 3-5 times, pause to first ask a literal question about the story content.
- ◆ Prompt children to work to take the perspective of the characters and ask a complex question that helps them link characters' mental states/motivation to their actions and words.

Ask and Answer Questions

Read: "I am not small. You are big."

Ask: "Who is bigger?"

Elaborate: "The yellow creature is bigger. Do you think the purple creature thinks he is just a normal size? How do you know?"

Read: "BOOM!"

Ask: "Oh my! Now who is the biggest?"

Elaborate: "The yellow creature no longer looks big! Do you think of this creature as a big creature now? Why not?"

Read: "No, you're not big. You are big *and* you are small..."

Ask: "Who is the smallest? Who is the biggest?"

Elaborate: "Big and small may depend on who else is in the room or what else is nearby! How are each of the creatures both big and small?"

3. REVIEW

- ◆ "This book was about two creatures arguing about their size only to find out that they are both big and small!"

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Asking children questions shows them that we're listening and interested in what they have to say. Spend time throughout the day actively listening to children as they share stories and ideas. Then ask questions to prompt them to share more, clarify their thoughts, or help you understand their perspective. Be ready to provide language to support children who need help answering questions.