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LIS 723

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Early Learning Program

## **Let's Be Friends Program**

### **Introductions**

Hello, everyone! How are you all doing today? My name is Miss Aimee and today we're going to talk about *friendship* and *feelings*. We're going to read some books, do some dancing, and make a lot of funny faces! I want everyone to get involved, okay? That means you too, parents. It might get a little crazy and maybe a little *spooky*, so if you feel like you need to take your child out of the room to help them calm down, that's okay.

So, how many of you feel happy right now? [Raise hand] How many of you feel sad? [Wait for hands: "Oh no!" for the sad kids.] How many of you feel... angry? [Make crazy angry face.] Well, I hope you'll all feel happy after our program today.

### **Opening Song: If You're Happy and You Know it**

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands (clap clap)  
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands (clap clap)  
If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it  
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. (clap clap)

If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet (stomp stomp)  
If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet (stomp stomp)  
If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it  
If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet. (stomp stomp)

If you're happy and you know it, shout "Hurray!" (hoo-ray!)  
If you're happy and you know it, shout "Hurray!" (hoo-ray!)  
If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it  
If you're happy and you know it, shout "Hurray!" (hoo-ray!)

If you're happy and you know it, do all three (clap-clap, stomp-stomp, hoo-ray!)  
If you're happy and you know it, do all three (clap-clap, stomp-stomp, hoo-ray!)

If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it  
If you're happy and you know it, do all three. (clap-clap, stomp-stomp, hoo-ray!)

## **Parent Tip: Play**

Remember, *PLAY* is not just fun, it's a way for kids to learn, just like reading. Play with your preschoolers everyday and help them build those critical thinking and social skills. When they play with other kids, they learn how to interpret facial expressions and develop empathy.

Interactive Read-Aloud: *The Farmer and the Clown* by Marla Frazee

The book has no text, so I will interpret the images into words and ask the children what they think is happening in the images, inviting their own interpretations of the events and facial expressions.

## **Interactive Flannel Board: *The Farmer and the Clown***

Oh, look, here's the farmer and the clown! The clown has his make up on, doesn't he? It's a smiley face. What does a smiley face mean? Is he happy? Remember what happened in the story? What happened when the clown washed off his make up? [Pull off clown face.] He was sad! Oh no! What did the Farmer do when he saw that the clown boy was sad? He made silly faces! Let's make silly faces. [Change clown face.] Oh, but look at the clown boy. What's that look on his face? He looks surprised! Or maybe... scared? Let's keep trying to cheer him up. What else did the farmer do in the story? He danced! Let's dance to make the clown feel better! Get up everyone!

Let's shake our little hips!  
Let's shake our little arms!  
Let's do a little dance, round and round!

[Change clown kids face to happy face]  
He's happy now! We did it. [Clap excitedly.] And now the farmer and the clown are friends. [Switch their hats] just like in the book.

**Note to parents:** You can use games like this to help your child's reading comprehension. They'll remember a story better if they act it out through play.

## **Interactive Read-Aloud: *The Dark* by Lemony Snicket**

Remember how the clown was a little scared of the farmer at first? He was feeling lonely and lost, but the farmer helped cheer him up. How many of you have ever been scared before? What are *you* scared of? Are any of you scared of... the dark?

I'm going to tell you story about a boy who was scared of the dark.

[Read aloud *The Dark* by Lemony Snicket. Ask the children what they think the Dark wants from the little boy in the story. What's he gonna do?]

Oh look, the dark wasn't so bad, was he? He helped Lazlo get the lightbulb for his nightlight! Sometimes the things that scare us aren't so scary at all. Like spiders! [Pull out spider puppet and tickle nearest child.]

## **Interactive Song and Finger-Play: The Itsy Bitsy Spider**

How many of you know the song The Itsy Bitsy Spider? Let's sing it together! Do your hands like this. [Show them the hand motions for the song.]

The itsy bitsy spider  
Crawled up the water spout  
Down came the rain  
And washed the spider out  
Out came the sun  
And dried up all the rain  
And the itsy bitsy spider  
Crawled up the spout again.

Would *you* make friends with a spider? Probably not! But some people keep them as pets! It's okay to like things that other people hate or fear. *I* like spiders. I think they're cute!

## **Interactive Read-Aloud: *Art and Max* by David Wiesner**

It can be hard to make friends. When we meet someone for the first time, we might not like them very much. Maybe they're a little scary. Like the Dark! Or maybe they smell funny. Or they talk too loud. Or they always take your toys and get in the way all the time. How rude! But, you know, we're all a little strange or rude sometimes, and that's *okay*.

[Read *Art and Max* by David Wiesner. Do the voices of the characters. Ask the kids what is going on with the art.]

## **Interactive Art: Dry Erase Board**

Do you think Max did a good job drawing his friend Arthur? His drawing was very silly at first, wasn't it? But then he got better the more he drew! That's how you become a better artist. So let's draw, too!

[Using the dry-erase board, I ask them what to draw. If they can't decide, I suggest a spider. I draw a cat. Ask them if that's right. Nope. Erase. Draw Circle. Ask what else I need. Legs! How many? Eight! Continue this for a few more animals/objects. Invite them to draw on the board as well.]

## **Closing Song**

Good Bye Song from Bear in the Big Blue House

Hey, this was really fun  
We hope you liked it too  
Seems like we've just begun  
When suddenly we're through  
Goodbye, goodbye, good friends, goodbye  
Cause now it's time to go  
But, hey, I say, well, that's OK  
Cause we'll see you very soon, I know  
Very soon, I know  
Goodbye, goodbye, good friends, goodbye  
And tomorrow, just like today  
We'll be waiting for you to come and play  
To come and play, to come and play

**Closing Statement:**

Thank you all for joining us today and I hope you had fun! I have a handout sheet for you, parents, to take home. Be sure to try out some of the activities we did today and, as I said before, play is another form of learning. Encourage your little ones to act out stories and come up with their own!