



EDUCATIONAL GUIDE



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GET TO KNOW THE SHOW

What happens when you invite someone very different from you to come over to play? Just such an adventure awaits an adventurous CHILD when she introduces her shy imaginary FRIEND to a very special kitchen, where instead of food, they'll cook up beautiful music! This gentle, whimsical adventure celebrates friendship and turning the ordinary into the extraordinary as you never know just what will become a musical instrument next. Pasta box shakers and dishes drumming away with spoons are just some of the friendly surprises that encourage a child's sense of play. And as our heroine empowers her timid friend to create music, we discover just what wonders can be accomplished when we all work together.

TALKING ABOUT THE SHOW

(Cognitive Development & Comprehension, Language Control & Speech, Auditory Learning)

What is your favorite thing to do with your friends? Do you take turns? What is your favorite game to play together? In our story, Child has lots of adventures with her imaginary Friend: making music, singing, dancing, and exploring her kitchen. This conversation is a great way to introduce the themes of friendship, working together, and adventure!

CHILD:

The heroine and main character. She's innocent, smart, confident, and playful. It's her kitchen that we're visiting, and she's proud of it. But she's not all that fond of being alone.



FRIEND:

Our heroine's best friend. She may be real; she may be imagined. She lives inside the cabinets and comes out to play when Child needs her. She is shy yet playful. She looks up to Child and takes her lead, but she is a bit more reluctant to try new things.

BEFORE YOU SEE THE SHOW



LET'S SHARE AND BUILD!

(Social and Emotional Development, Cognitive Development, Collaboration)

As a class, explore building a structure together by sharing building blocks. Have the children sit in a circle. Fill a basket with blocks. Call the children one at a time to choose a block. Ask the child to take that block to a friend who will then put the block in the center of the circle starting a structure. Then, the next child chooses a block, shares that block with a friend, and the friend continues to add to the structure that is being created. Continue this process until the children work together to build a structure with all the remaining blocks. This is a great way to teach children about sharing and teamwork!

LET'S IMAGINE: TRANSFORMATIONAL OBJECTS

(Cognitive Development, Creative Expression)

You will need:

Objects/Toys from the classroom

Aluminum Foil

Box



Cover several toys and objects that may be familiar to the students with aluminum foil. Place these objects in a box. Then, sitting in a circle with your students, recite the following “magic words”:

*Magic Box
Magic Box
What's inside today?*

Retrieve one of the objects and ask the children to guess what it is. Chances are, you will get a variety of answers. After revealing each object, you can discuss all the different ways we can pretend an object is actually something completely different. For example, a bowl can be a hat or a spaceship or a cave. Let their imaginations soar!

AFTER YOU SEE THE SHOW



MUSIC AND MOVEMENT:

CREATE A BAND WITH UPCYCLED MATERIALS

(Fine/Gross Motor Development, Creative Expression, Music and Rhythm Introduction)

Collect found objects from around the classroom. What kind of sounds can you make with these objects? What songs can you play? Can you keep a steady beat? Can you play softly?

Can you play loudly?

EXTENDED PLAY:

Ask students five years old and up to try playing set rhythms together as a group while singing *The Itsy Bitsy Spider*, just like Child and Friend!

LET'S SPREAD KINDNESS!

(Social emotional development, creative expression)

Have your children create flowers just like the one Friend left for Child. Ask them to give their flower to someone special to them.

You will need:

Paint and Paint Brush

Egg Carton

Paper Straw

Poms

Scissors

Glue



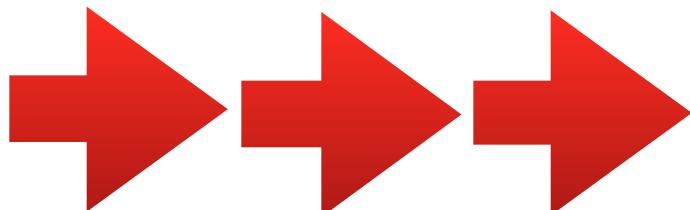
Prepare the egg cartons for the children to paint by cutting out a section of four containers. Then, the children can paint that section. After the paint is dry, you can attach the paper straw stem by gluing it to the back of the carton flower. Finally, have the child choose a pom to glue to the center of the flower.

LET'S SHARE!

(Comprehension, Recall, Retelling a Story Orally, Speech & Language Skills, Listening)

Start with an open-ended conversation inviting the students to talk about the show.

- Tell me about the show.
- What happened first? What happened next?
- What was your favorite part of the show?
- What did they find in Child's kitchen?
- Where does Friend live?
- What gifts did they give each other?
- What did they share?
- How did the show end?



EXTENSION:

Ask students ages five and up to create a story board recalling the events that happened in the show. You could use pictures or even props like the ones that were used in the show to recall the story.

RECOMMENDED READING

ON FRIENDSHIP AND KINDNESS

My Kite is Stuck by Salina Loon
Ella and Penguin: A Perfect Match by Megan Maynor
Bee & Me by Allison Jay
Good People Everywhere by Lynea Gillen

ON RHYTHM

Hand, Hand, Finger, Thumb by Al Perkins
Tap, Tap Boom, Boom by Elizabeth Bluemle

ON OBJECT TRANSFORMATION

Not a Box by Antoinette Portis
Not a Stick by Antoinette Portis



Theatre for children 0-6 years old in Northern Virginia