

Are You My Mother?

By P.D. Eastman

A little bird looks for his mother. He asks animals and machines, “Are you my mother?”

BEFORE READING:

- Show the children the front of the book. Ask them to guess what the book is about.
- Ask them what they see on the front cover.
- Ask them to read (or read with you) the letters spelling “mother” on the cover.

WHILE READING:

- Stop at any time if there is something you or the children would like to talk about.
- Ask them questions so that they can connect what is happening in the book to things they already know about. Try some of these ideas:
 - ⇒Have you ever seen a nest or baby birds?
 - ⇒Have you ever been lost?
 - ⇒Have you ever found worms in the ground?

AFTER READING:

Spend some time talking about the story. Ask the children things like:

- ⇒What happened to the baby bird?
- ⇒How did the baby bird feel at the beginning of the story?
- ⇒How did the baby bird feel at the end of the story?

Read this book several times to the children. Hearing the same story again and again helps them learn new words and understand the ideas they hear better. Each day, pick a different activity to do with the children after reading “Are You My Mother?”

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MATH AND SCIENCE

Talk to the children about mother animals and baby animals. Talk about different names for the babies and their mothers. For example, a mother chicken is a “hen”, and a baby is a “chick”. Female cattle are “cows” and their babies are “calves.” Show the children pictures of mother animals and their babies, and talk about the similarities and differences.

READING READINESS

Reread the story to the children. At each page, pause before you read the next part of the story. Ask the children what they think will come next. See how much they remember. Have them use the pictures in the book as clues to what you will read.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Take a walk with the children. Have them pretend they are Little Bird. Look for animals and machines. Have the children ask, “Are you my mother?” Count the number of animals and machines you can find.

MOTOR SKILLS

Talk to the children about Little Bird and how he had to walk because he could not fly. Encourage them to list other ways to move your body from one place to another. Play “Mother, May I?” with the children. Ask them to march, skip, crawl, etc. to get across the room.

THINKING SKILLS

Ask the children how they think Little Bird felt when he could not find his mother. Ask the children how they would feel if they got lost. Ask the children what they should do and where they should go if they got lost. Make a list of people who could help them.

ART

Talk about the children’s families. What members make up their family? Have the children draw pictures of their families, then tell you something about each person in their family. Hang the pictures where children can look at them.

PRETEND PLAY

Take the children outside to a park or playground. Have them pretend they are lost, and have to come to you for help. Ask them their name, their address, and their phone number. If they do not know these things, help them practice memorizing this information. Talk to the children about who is safe to approach (police officers, etc.) and who it is not safe to approach (strangers). Encourage families to help children practice this information at home.

