

LEO THE LATE BLOOMER

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Book by Robert Kraus, illustrated by Jose Aruego

Themes: Family Relationships/ Growing Up/ Self-Esteem

Grade Level: Pre-K - 2

Running Time: 6:00

SUMMARY

Leo is behind his friends in reading, writing, drawing, eating neatly and speaking. When Leo's father becomes concerned, Leo's mother explains that Leo is simply a late bloomer. Later, in his own good time, Leo "blooms" pleasing his patient parents and of course, himself.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will investigate family relationships.
- Children will learn about growing up.
- Children will explore the importance of self-esteem.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book *Leo the Late Bloomer* with children. Then ask:

- How do you think Leo felt about not being able to do the things his friends could do?
- How do you think Leo's parents felt at the beginning of the story?
- What helped Leo learn to draw and write and speak?
- How do you think Leo and his family felt at the end of the story?

Encourage children to talk about some new skills they are working to master. Ask them to describe

how they will go about learning these skills to help them appreciate the complexities involved. Have children describe how they feel when they accomplish their goals.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Help children recognize the many skills and abilities they have already mastered. Include their ability to communicate, their physical abilities, their ability to demonstrate a wide range of emotions, etc. Then make a list of the skills and abilities the children are most proud of. Have children draw pictures to accompany their list of accomplishments. Display the lists and drawings in a prominent place in the classroom under the heading, "We're Proud Of Ourselves!"

Encourage children to describe their family members. Ask:

- What kinds of things would you like your parents and siblings to say when you learn something new?
- How would you like to celebrate a new skill or ability?
- What can you do to show a younger sibling how proud you are of him or her?
- What things do your family members do that you are most proud of?

Later, have children dictate stories about their families, focusing on the special talents and abilities of each family member.

Plant an indoor garden to help children understand the value of patience. You can use bean seeds or

other fast growing plants so that children can see results soon. From time to time discuss the importance, and necessity of being patient. Each day, as children work on paintings, write stories and learn to sing songs, point out that patience is an important part of each of these activities. When the plants finally bloom, reward the children with a classroom party to celebrate the patience they demonstrated waiting for their plants to grow.

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