

OWEN

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By Kevin Hankes

Themes: Blankets, Growing up, Starting School

Grade Levels: Pre-K-2

Running Time: 13 minutes

SUMMARY

This is a story of a little mouse named Owen who is entirely devoted to his yellow blanket that he calls Fuzzy. When a neighbor tells Owen's parents that he is getting too big to be carrying Fuzzy around –especially to school- Owen's parents try, in vain, to hasten the separation process. Then, just in time, Owen's mother comes up with the perfect idea.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will recall their own babyhood.
- Children will examine family relationships and object attachments.
- Children will talk about getting ready for school.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book OWEN with children. Talk with children about their favorite toys/object that they had when they were younger. Ask:

- How did you feel about this special toy/object?
- What activities did you enjoy with your special toy/object?

- What did you keep it?
- What happened to it?

Ask: If you could keep one item until you grow up, and take it with you wherever you went:

- What item would it be?
- How would you share this with your friends?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about how their moms and dads help them get ready for school. Do they get new shoes or new book bags? Do they prepare a snack or lunch from home? Do they leave their blankets, teddy bears, and moms and dads behind?

Try this activity to help children develop their creative thinking skills: Talk with children about some of the things Owen does with his blanket in the film. Then have children think about other ways Owen might play with and/or use his blanket. Have children draw pictures to illustrate these ideas. Later, encourage children to show and describe their pictures to their classmates.

Provide large sheets of manila paper with a bright red line drawn near the top that children can use to create a "time line of favorite toys." Print the words "baby" "toddler" "preschooler" "school age" above the red line. Have children recall some of the toys/ objects they enjoyed at different ages. When finished, have children take a second look at their time lines so that they can see for them-

selves how their interests have changed!

Draw a sad face, happy face, surprised face, and angry face on four separate paper plates. Hold the plates up, one at a time, and have children talk about what makes them feel the emotion they see on the plate. Children might say that being with a special friend makes them happy, having to share a toy makes them sad, and unexpected visitor makes them feel surprised, etc. Later, encourage children to talk about the situations that might make them feel happy, sad, surprised, angry about the toys/objects they are attached to.

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