

# PETE'S A PIZZA

## **PETE'S A PIZZA**

By William Steig (HarperCollins)

Themes: Humor/Family Relationships

Grade Level: Pre-K – 1

Running Time: 6 minutes

## **SUMMARY**

When a rainy day forces Pete to stay inside, Pete's parents come up with a brilliant idea! They knead the dough, apply the oil, sprinkle on flour, add tomatoes and pepperoni — and turn Pete into the funniest pizza ever! This is a loving tribute to inventive parents.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- . Children will learn about family relationships
- . Children will enjoy using their imaginations
- . Children will explore feelings

## **BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES**

Share the book *Pete's a Pizza* with children. Then ask:

- How was Pete feeling in the beginning of the story?
- Why do you think Pete's father decided to make a pizza out of Pete?
- What did Pete's father use for tomato sauce? Oil? Flour? Cheese? Pepperoni?
- How did Pete feel about being made into a pizza?
- How do you think Pete felt at the end of the story?

Encourage children to describe different kinds of pizzas. As children talk, have them describe the tastes, look, smells, and textures of the different ingredients they have enjoyed on pizzas. Then play

a game of "What's On My Pizza?" Start the game by saying: "I'm having a pizza that has something round, red, and spicy-tasting on it. What kind of pizza am I having?" After children identify the pizza (pepperoni), have children in the group take turns describing, without identifying, different pizzas to the group and see if they can name the pizzas.

Have children pretend to make a child in the class into a doughnut. Have children "stretch and mold the child" into a circle shape, sprinkle sugar (use powder) on the "doughnut", and pop the doughnut into the pretend frying pan. Later, have children take turns making hamburgers, hot dogs, and pretzels out of one another.

Talk with children about the ways in which Pete's parents worked to help make Pete feel better. Then ask:

- How do your family members help you when you feel sad?
- What things do you do to help your family members feel happy?
- What do you most enjoy doing with your family?
- How would you describe your family to a friend?

## **AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES**

Talk about what makes this story funny. Have children share the funniest joke, story, riddle they ever heard with the group. Recommend picture books that offer humorous tales to children. Discuss the ways humor can be used to help us feel better when we are sad, ill, or angry.

Plan a classroom pizza party. Help children create hats to wear to the party by making cone shapes from construction paper. Have children attach red construction paper circles to the hats to represent pepperoni hats; long, thin strips of white paper to represent cheese hats; white construction paper cut into spiral shapes to represent onion hats. As children enjoy their pizza, have them consider what ingredient they would like to be if they had to choose between cheese, pepperoni, mushroom, onion, or any other pizza topping. Encourage them to describe why they chose this particular topping.

Talk with children about the different things Pete's parents might have done to change Pete's mood. Then have several children in the group pretend to be the mother, father, and child in a family. Have the "child" pretend to be sad. Encourage children portraying the mother and father to demonstrate how, as parents, they might make the child feel better. As children perform, emphasize to the group that it is not necessary to offer material things to help people feel better, but that showing kindness and caring can go a long way toward brightening someone's day.

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