

A Splendid Friend, Indeed

A CLEL Silver Bell Award Book for WRITE

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Big, quiet Bear loves to read and write and think, while energetic Goose loves talking and being with Bear. Bear gets a little frustrated with all of Goose's interruptions, but when Goose delivers an affectionate written note, Bear realizes that for all their differences, they have their friendship in common, and that writing is an important way to communicate with our friends and families.

Activity Ideas for *A Splendid Friend, Indeed*:

- Have the children decorate cards with stickers, crayons, or stamps and ink, or other craft supplies, then draw a picture inside for a friend. While they work, ask them to talk about the materials they are using. Do they feel sticky? Are they smelly? Skinny? Colorful? The more robust conversations children have, the more words they will learn. Children with big vocabularies often have an easier time learning to read.
- Sing "Where Is Thumbkin?" to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?" with the children and show them how to hold up just one finger at a time as you sing each verse. Singing fingerplays and reciting nursery songs with hand motions gives children practice with finger dexterity and hand-eye coordination, which will help them when they draw and write.

Where is Thumbkin, where is Thumbkin?
Here I am, here I am.
How are you today, friend? Very well, I thank you.
Run away, run away.
- Ask the children to tell you what activities they like to do. Help them describe the steps that they need to take to do them. To paint, they might need to put on a smock, open the paint jars, and pick up a paintbrush. To play outside, they might need to put on their jacket, wait for their friends, and open the door. Being able to put events in sequence is a comprehension skill that will help them remember the order of events in the stories they read.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org/content/bell-awards>



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