

Tea with Grandpa

The 2015 CLEL Bell Award Book for PLAY

by Barney Saltzberg
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A young girl and her grandfather spend a delightful time together singing, having a tea party, and chatting. *Tea with Grandpa* stands as a wonderful model of child-directed, open-ended play and presents a positive example of how technology can help children maintain critical family relationships.

Activity Ideas for *Tea with Grandpa*:

- Use a play tea set or simple kitchen dishes, and stuffed animals or toys, to have a pretend tea party! Ask the children what should happen first, next, and last. Should you drink the tea first, or pour it, or make it? Should you welcome friends first, or invite them to come over? Thinking about sequence is a comprehension skill that will help children understand stories when they are reading books on their own.
- Looking at pictures of loved ones is a great time to talk with children about the people in their world. Use pictures of special friends and family members to make a simple picture book. Use construction paper and printed photos and write down each person's name. Talk about what each person looks like, and what they like to do, or what their favorite foods are. Then let the children turn the pages and tell a story about each person. The act of pretending to read builds a child's confidence by giving them a chance to practice the behaviors, skills, and cognitive processes connected with reading.
- Sing and act out the words to "I'm a Little Teapot."
I'm a little teapot, short and stout (*hands on hips*)
Here is my handle, here is my spout (*one hand in the air, one hand on hip*)
When I get all steamed up,
Hear me shout
Tip me over and pour me out! (*lean to one side*)
As the children pretend to be teapot, they are learning how to follow directions, engaging in imaginative play, and learning to listen for rhyming words.

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> and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.



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