

Activity Sheet



Un gato y un perro / A Cat and a Dog written by Claire Masurel, illustrated by Bob Kolar

Sworn enemies become staunch friends in this bilingual book. Reading this book is a great way to introduce a second language to young children, be they English- or Spanish-speaking.

Before you read this book: Tell the children you are going to read a book written in English and Spanish. Tell them that some people speak other languages and Spanish is a language. Ask if anyone in the class speaks Spanish or has someone in their family or neighborhood that speaks Spanish. Invite Spanish-speaking children to teach the class Spanish words.

Introduce the book by asking the children to close their eyes and imagine a dog and a cat in the same room. What types of things do they imagine would happen?

While you read this book: Pause your reading on page 21. Ask the children how they think the problem might be solved. What could the cat and dog do? Read the Spanish and English text if you are able.

After you read this book: Reinforce that a simple act of kindness turned the cat and dog into friends. Ask the children "What do you do to help each other in school? Your family? Your friends?"

At home: Read your child's new book to them. Talk about how words can be kind or hurtful. In the book, point to the hurtful words that Cat and Dog use (i.e., HSSS, GRRR, clumsy, fussy, dirty, and lazy). Share cotton and sandpaper with your child. Let your child feel the cotton and sandpaper. Ask them how it feels. After your child has told you that the cotton is nice, soft and fluffy, point out that words can be nice too (i.e., please, thank you, hello, and excuse me). After the children have told you that the sandpaper is rough and hurts, point out that words can hurt too (i.e., name calling, tattling and teasing). Then read the following statements to your child and have them decide if the words are cotton (nice) words or sandpaper (hurtful) words.

"You can't play with us."

"Thank you for sharing your crayons."

"May I please play?"

"I'm not your friend anymore."

"I am sorry I bumped into you."

"Give me that. It's mine."

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