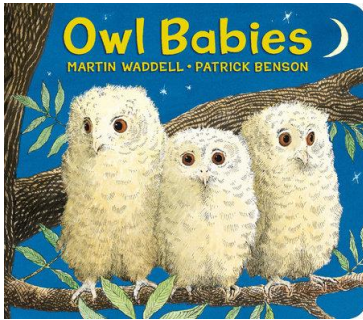




# SEEDS for Story Time

## Promoting Social Emotional Development Through Books



### *Owl Babies*

By Martin Waddell

**T**hree baby owls awake one night to find their mother gone, and they can't help but wonder where she is. What is she doing? When will she be back? Stunning illustrations from striking perspectives capture the anxious little owls as they worry. Not surprisingly, joyous flapping and dancing and bouncing greet the mother's return, lending a celebratory tone to the ending of this comforting tale. Never has the plight of young ones who miss their mother been so simply told or so beautifully rendered. (Ages 1-3)

### Introducing this book to young children:



CLL5.1c

Before reading the book, talk about what it means to miss someone and feel alone or lonely. Talk with children about how they sometimes miss someone when they come to school. Ask older toddlers how they feel when they miss someone. Tell the children that you are going to read a book about three little owls that miss their mama.



SED2.1b

Ask the children how they know when someone is lonely or missing someone. Would they smile or frown? Show some pictures of children showing different emotions (make sure some of the faces represent sad or lonely). Ask how they think the children in the pictures are feeling and why they think that (point out facial characteristics like smiling mouth or tears). Model various facial expressions for children and have them imitate the expression. You can give each child a small child-safe mirror so they can watch themselves make the different expressions.



SED4.1b

Have children bring in pictures of their family or people that they might miss while they are at school. If families can't send a photo to school, take pictures of family members at drop-off or pick-up. Have children "show and tell" the pictures to one another. You can bring in a picture and talk about your family too! Make a bulletin board or photo album with everyone's photos. Tell the children that if they miss someone, they might feel better if they see a picture of that person. Also, remind children that their family will come back at the end of the day.

# SEEDS for Story Time

**R**epeated readings of the same book provides opportunities for infants and toddlers to develop a sense of competence and confidence. Children learn to point at and label pictures, turn pages, discuss the story, and make predictions of what will happen next, while learning new words and relating the story to their own experiences. Read *Owl Babies* for several days in a row and use some of the ideas, activities, and teaching opportunities listed below to enhance social and emotional skills.



## GELDS Activity Spotlight

### Arrival

Take a picture of each caregiver picking up their child in the afternoon. You can refer to the picture and encourage the child to hold it when he/she becomes sad or is hesitant for their family member to leave. This will reassure the child that they will come back soon. You could also use a picture with the posted daily class schedule. For those children who really have a difficult time, place the picture above the activity or routine the child will be doing when their family member will pick him/her up to go home. If needed, this may become a morning routine that the family member does with their child each day upon arrival. **SED3.1b**

### Art

Give each child a brown piece of construction paper and a feather. Provide several colors of paint; red, yellow, orange, and white. Allow children to explore the paint using the feather and paint on the construction paper. **CD-CR2.2a**

### Math

Create owl faces in various colors by cutting out large circle and then cutting a small half circle to create the ears. Add wiggly eyes and an orange triangle for the beak. Provide children with feathers in the same colors. Tell children that the owls need their feathers and encourage them to match the feathers with the corresponding color owl face. **CD-MA4.1a**

## Focus on Family

When the family arrives to drop off their infant, make a comment that helps build the relationship with the infant and the family. Ask about their evening, how the child slept, or follow up about something new you know they were trying/planning. You might also encourage families to create an arrival routine to help their child transition each day. For example, engage the infant in a soothing song in the morning:

*Hello, hello, hello, and how are you?  
I'm fine, I'm fine and I hope that you are too.*

**SED3.0a**

