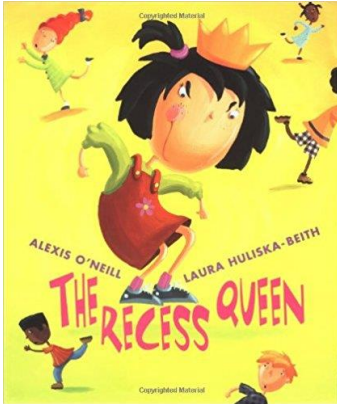




# SEEDS for Story Time

## Promoting Social Emotional Development Through Books



### ***The Recess Queen***

By Alexis O'Neill

**A** fresh & original twist on the common issue of bullying. Kids will relate, & parents & teachers will appreciate the story's deft handling of conflict resolution. Mean Jean was Recess Queen, and nobody said any different. If kids ever crossed her, she'd push 'em and smooch 'em lollapaloosh 'em, hammer 'em, slammer 'em kitz and kajammer 'em. Until a new kid came to school! With her irrepressible spirit, the new girl dethrones the reigning recess bully by becoming her friend in this playground romp. (Ages 4-8)

### Introducing this book to young children:



CLL2.4a

Before reading this book, talk with children about what it means to be a friend. Write their answers on a chart paper labeled "What does a good friend do?" They may have answers such as, shares their toys, plays with, or helps others. Post the chart paper in a visible location in the classroom and refer to it often before, during, and after reading this book!



CLL5.4d

As you introduce the book and title, ask children what they think it means to be bossy or a bully. Tell them that you are going to read them a story about a little girl named Mean Jean who is sometimes bossy to the children in her class and none of them ask her to play. Encourage them to listen carefully to discover what happens that helps Mean Jean build friendships.



SED2.4b

While reading the story, ask the children how they would feel if they were Mean Jean. How would they feel if someone at school treated them like Mean Jean treats the children in her class? Encourage children to talk about how they can be a 'recess friend' and chart their answers. This is a great time to review the playground rules.



SED5.4c

Encourage the children to tell you stories about conflicts that have happened in the classroom and take dictation. Make the stories funny and always come up with fun ideas of how to solve the conflict. This is a great opportunity to make connections to your [solution kit](#)!

# SEEDS for Story Time

Repeated readings of the same book provides opportunities for preschoolers 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 *The Recess Queen* 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

### Outside

Give the children three or four characters to act out as they play outside, during outdoor time. Try a pirate, queen, king, firefighter, football player, pet walker or various animals. Encourage them to work together to create scenarios. Encourage them add to the list and have them tell stories about their characters when you come back inside. **SED2.4c**

### Large Group

During large group, place two jump ropes across the floor parallel to one another. Have the children line up on one rope and jump from one side to the other. Once they practice a few times on their own introduce a twist! The twist is that they have to make room for friends, since they will now all be jumping on the count of three! This teaches teamwork and cooperative play. **SED5.4b**

### Blocks

The block area is often a place that can cause conflicts over materials such as cars and trucks. Ensure that there are multiple cars and trucks available for play to promote positive peer interaction. Add interesting real and found materials that will entice the children's attention such as oatmeal boxes or empty wipe containers that open and close. **SED5.1c**

### Small Group/ Library

Create a class book based on *The Recess Queen*. After reading the book a few times, provide children with the writing prompt "I can be a Recess Friend by \_\_\_\_\_." Write their answers and have them draw a picture to illustrate their idea. You can laminate the pages for durability and punch holes in them to create a book. Take the book on the playground and use it as a visual prompt to support/remind children of the ways they can be a Recess Friend. **SED4.4b**

## Focus on Family

Families help children practice friendship and kindness in many ways. One way is by supporting them as they learn to play with other children at the park or in a family gathering. Before going to the playground or a family gathering, families can ask children what they will play when they arrive. Talk with them about how to find someone to play with. They can ask to join play with someone that is doing what they had planned to do or ask someone join them in play. As you arrive, give your child support, as needed, to begin playing with peers. **SED5.3a**

