



Somewhere Else by Gus Gordon

Gus Gordon creates books that make us smile. This latest book is no exception! *Somewhere Else* is the tale of a duck called George who stays at home for the winter instead of flying south. He keeps himself busy by baking, doing yoga and ironing, doing anything to avoid facing his secret fear. With the help of his best friend Pascal, George has an adventure he will never forget and learns to face his fear! It's a funny tale of friendship and adventure that is sure to make your listeners smile!



Key Message for Parents:

The Best Learning Happens In Nurturing Relationships

Relationships are profoundly important and are at the very centre of early childhood development. What is essential for optimal brain development is stable, loving, relationships and low stress, happy environments. Children's brains adapt to the environment in which they are developing. Nurturing relationships lay the foundations for many developmental outcomes, such as self-confidence, motivation and a love of learning.

Share this message with parents and carers, that making time in their day to read, sing or go for a walk together will build a sense of love and connection that will grow as their child does. It will also help to build a strong, healthy, happy brain!

Learning Outcomes - Outcome 1: Children Have A Strong Sense Of Identity

As educators or story time facilitators it is important to provide a learning environment where children feel safe and supported. We can support children to have a strong sense of identify by:

- Developing warm relationships with families through friendly and positive interactions
- Helping children to recognise what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour at story time through positive reinforcement, praise and discussion
- Develop positive self-identities in children by listening to their ideas, encouraging them to share stories and by being a good role model as teachers, parents and caregivers
- Encouraging children to interact and play together respectfully, through games and activities, which encourage sharing and working together

Find booklists, tip sheets, nursery rhymes and activity and learning time sheets @

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au     



Themes within this story

- Friendship
- Birds
- Resilience

Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

and welcome to you!



Hello song

www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbB83ejcOe8

I'm in the mood for stories, hey how about you?

I'm in the mood for stories, hey how about you?

I'm in the mood for stories, reading along with you

Hey, hey what do you say?

I'm in the mood for that today

Hey, hey, what do you say?

I'm in the mood for that!

Song

The More We Are Together (Invite adults and children to stand in a circle and join hands)

The more we are together, together, together

The more we are together the happier are we

Cause your friends are my friends, and my friends are your friends!

(invite children to shake hands and say hello to the person standing next to them)

The more we are together the happier are we!

Change the words to "the more we dance together or sing, read and play together each time you sing!



Before Reading

You might like to use an old suitcase as a “story box”, filling it with recipes, maps, and other items that may be handy to help bring today’s story to life!

What do we use suitcases for? Show the children the end pages, which are beautifully, collaged with pictures of old suitcases. Today’s story is about a journey or a trip! Have you ever been away on a holiday? Discuss!

Encourage children to get into “listening positions”, sitting cross-legged with hands in laps ready to listen.

When reading a picture book to a group of children you might like to spend a few moments looking at the front cover together. Ask the children to describe what they can see on the cover and then predict what they think the story is about. Important too, is to read aloud the books title and its author and illustrator.

During Reading

Gus Gordon’s illustration style is witty and captivating. Take time to explore his wonderful pictures, which combine photographic collage and drawing in a fun and entertaining way.

There are also some very poignant moments in the story. When George Laurent realises he will always be a “stay at home sort of a guy”, Gus Gordon captures this sadness in a lovely illustration of George and Pascal Lombard sitting reading the newspapers in front of the fire. And as they set off into the sunset in the hot air balloon you can feel the excitement building as Pascal asks, “Where shall we go? And George replies “I have some ideas”. Before you turn the page, ask the children to think about where they think Pascal and George will go?

After Reading

Discuss the ways in which Pascal tried helped George to fly? How was Pascal a good friend to George? Gratitude and kindness can be expressed in many different ways! What are some ways that we might be a good friend? Make a list of kind and caring actions.

Activity Time

Make a Friendship Cake!

George Laurent loves to bake – children can design and create their own special (non-edible) cake to give to a friend or someone special to them.

What you need

- Patty pans
- Playdoh
- Sequins, small poms poms
- Small coloured rectangles for writing message onto
- Matchsticks or toothpicks to attach a message to
- Textas to colour and write

Invite children to use their creativity to create a cake. Perhaps have images of cakes for them to look at for inspiration. Ask parents and carers to talk with their child and write down a special message that can be stuck to a tooth pick, and displayed in the cake.



[See play dough recipe on the next page.](#)



Play dough Recipe

You will need:

- 1 cup plain flour
- 1 cup hot water
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon oil
- 1/4 cup salt
- food colouring (optional).

Instructions:


1. Mix all dry ingredients in a large bowl
2. Measure water into a jug, add oil and food colouring if desired
3. Pour water and oil over dry ingredients and mix together
4. Allow mixture to cool in the bowl. Sprinkle some flour onto the table or bench and cover your hands with flour, this helps to prevent mixture sticking to the bench and your hands
5. Tip out mixture and knead dough until smooth

Activity Extension ideas:

- Make a hot air balloon as pictured using paper, wool and a paper bag!
- Make a collage picture in Gus Gordon style, using drawing and magazine pictures
- Develop a “library recipe book”, based on recipes shared in your group
- Start a friendship cake that is passed to everyone in the group or library. See this website for details!
www.hermanthegermanfriendshipcake.com

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area:

- **The Great Expedition** by Peter Carnavas
- **Jack And The Flum Flum Tree** by Julia Donaldson and 
- **Wendy** by Gus Gordon
- **Gary** by Lelia Rudge

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child’s name in the place of ‘you’ as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (*Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*) **or** your preferred choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action)

Say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye

To all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!

