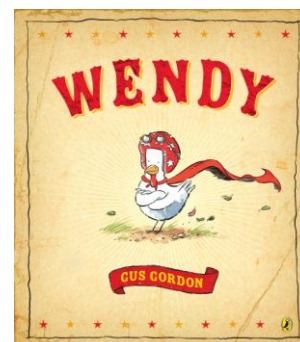


Wendy by Gus Gordon

Theme: Book's Dads Love to Read (September 2013)

Meet Wendy, a thrill seeking chicken who dares to be different! Gus Gordon's *Wendy* will amaze and delight both young and old as she experiences life's ups and downs and discovers the importance of family and friends. Gus Gordon's delightful illustrations are humorous and entertaining, as is the text, which is often perfectly poignant as well.



Key Message for Parents

The best learning happens in nurturing relationships

Research tells us healthy brain development is a result of consistent, caring relationships in stable, nurturing environments. Let's ensure young children have the best possible start by:

- Providing an environment that is predictable and calm
- Being a good role model and talking to children in a respectful way
- Showing children we care by valuing their achievements big and small
- Establishing a predictable, calm and enjoyable sleep routine

Learning Outcomes

Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

We can promote this by:

- Planning joyful activities which involve dance, drama and movement
- Providing materials and tools which help build fine motor skills
- Planning a range of sporting activities which challenge and build gross motor skills
- Showing genuine respect, affection and understanding for children

Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children. Welcome everyone! Introduce yourself and remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Sing - 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!



Song

Old Mc Donald

Old Mc Donald had a farm

E-I-E-I-O!

And on that farm he had a chicken

E-I-E-I-O

With a cluck, cluck here

And a cluck, cluck there

Old Mc Donald had a farm

E-I-E-I-O!

(What else do chickens do? Scratch, peck, flap! You might like to add these movements if time permits)



Book Introduction

Begin by looking at the cover together – what can we see? A chicken! Discuss what it is wearing. You may like to ask, “Why would it be wearing goggles and a helmet?” or “Can you think of any special jobs which might need you to wear a helmet?” Wendy is clearly no ordinary chicken!

During reading

Gus Gordon’s illustrations really are a visual treat! When reading allow plenty of time to view the illustrations and discover the many humorous and delightful details. Many of the characters in the story have funny names too like Wally Winterbottom or Marvelous Molly! These are bound to elicit much giggling from the children!

After Reading

Ask the children what did Wendy really miss when she was working? Discuss how we all miss our families from time to time and how it is important to spend time with those we love. You might like to invite the children to share what they enjoy doing with their families.

Movement and dance

Wendy is a very fit and active chicken! This movement activity is a meaningful way to revisit the story and have fun together as a group.

Play “**Chicken Dance**” (or “**Dancing Chicken**” by Justine Clarke) Get the children to dance to the music. When it stops ask the children to Balance on one leg, Jump as high as they can, Pretend to juggle like Marvelous Molly, Ride a motor bike, Blow a kiss to some one you love! You may like to use the illustrations in the book as visual prompts or create some yourself.



Activity Time

Activity Time at your library may be the only time that some children have the opportunity to colour, cut, and paste. Activities like these are essential, not only for a child's fine motor skill development but also for their imagination, creativity and development of their planning, design and language skills.

Paper Plate Chicken

What you will need:

- Sticky tape
- Glue
- Feathers
- Scissors
- Coloured paper, yellow or orange
- Coloured crayons
- Paper Plates
- Patty pans (cut in half)



Procedure

Have materials set up on the table. You might also like to have some pictures of chickens or small toys on display for inspiration. Demonstrate how the plate can be folded in half to create a body. Let children create their chicken using the materials provided. Give suggestions about how the materials might be used but make sure to let children create use their imaginations and create their own original chicken!

Remember that with any children's craft, it's the creative process rather than the end result, which is important. Celebrate and value all creations!

If time allows set up some stacks of blocks or boxes on the floor and let the children play with their chicken and see how high it can jump!





Further Learning Time ideas

- Set up a **mini obstacle course** outside and get children to jump over boxes, cushions of various heights! Have fun!
- **Exploring angles** – Build ramps from blocks, cardboard etc. Use a ball to investigate how fast or slow or far a ball will travel, depending on the angle of the ramp!
- You could create your own **recycled race track** at home using card from cereal packets, old boxes and anything else you can find, which might be useful!

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of relevant books that parents might want to borrow. The Little Big Book Club recommends the following books to support further learning:

- The Worst Princess – Anna Kemp
- Louie The Pirate Chef – Simon Mitchell
- No-Bot The Robot With No Bottom – Sue Hendra
- The Great Expedition – Peter Carnarvas

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the last line rather than 'library friends' 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 song

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.....)