

ART

1. Make a class "Big Book" titled "I Used to...but Now." On large sheets of paper (one per child) write the title "I Used to..." on one half and "but Now..." on the other half. Under the titles have children draw and color pictures about what they did as babies compared to what they do now, such as "I used to crawl but now I walk," or "I used to drink from a bottle but now I drink from a glass." Record children's thoughts about what they drew, compile pages into a book, and have children "read" their pages to the class.
2. Together make a "Birthday Quilt." Using crayons, glitter, ribbons, and glue have each child decorate a square of fabric. (If possible have children bring to class 4x4 patches from old baby blankets or pieces of clothing.) With markers write children's names and the dates they were born on the squares. Put the squares together as a "quilt" on a bulletin board.

MUSIC/MOVEMENT

1. Listen to *Globalullabies* by Freyda during rest time.
2. Have a "Big Sister/Big Brother Time." Practice finger plays children can teach to a baby or younger child in the family, such as "The Itsy Bitsy Spider," "This Little Piggy Goes to Market," or "Pat-A-Cake." Read and chant Mother Goose rhymes. (Keyword: Mother Goose rhymes)
3. Together say the "Caring Fingerplay" by Tricia Maloney.

I care about you,	(Point to self and then at others.)
You care about me.	(Point to others and then self.)
Let's all live together;	(Hold arms out, like a hug.)
In perfect har-mon-y!	(Stretch arms overhead, holding the world.)

*Visit www.heartwoodethics.org and choose Resources, Pre-k/K for additional vignettes, downloadables, and other activities.

The Night You Were Born

Wendy McCormick
2000
Atlanta, Peachtree Publishers

LOVE

CONCEPTS

Love
Loyalty
Patience

SUMMARY

Awaiting news of his sister's birth, young Jamie is comforted by Aunt Isabel, who tells him about the night he was born. Together they light the way and prepare to welcome the new baby. Soft pastel illustrations complement this reassuring tale of family love and loyalty.

OBJECTIVE

Children will learn about family love and loyalty related to the arrival of a new baby. They will be encouraged to practice patience while waiting.

PREVIEW

1. Read the title and show illustrations of Jamie waiting at the beginning of the story and cheering at the end of the story. Ask children to tell why they think his mood changes from sad to happy.
2. Ask children to find LOVE on the Heartwood attribute poster.
3. Show items in the Prop Box, such as a clock, blanket, toy car, baby doll, flashlight, two stuffed cats, a shell or nightlight, and a copy of *The Night You Were Born*.

READING

1. Read interactively, with children responding to illustrations and text.
2. Have children bring a favorite blanket or stuffed toy to hold while listening to the story.

After the Story

DISCUSSION

How does Aunt Isabel help Jamie when he is doing the important job of waiting? Who helps you when you are waiting for something or someone special? What do you do when you have to wait for something? Who shows their love by telling you stories?

ACTIVITIES

1. Invite parents and/or grandparents to share stories about waiting for their children's arrival. They may choose to share children's baby books, and to read or tell favorite stories.
2. Have children tell about favorite relatives, draw pictures of them, and post on a bulletin board.
3. Together brainstorm helping activities to do while waiting. List on a chart and practice a few of the ideas, such as dusting the furniture, organizing bookshelves or art supplies, putting toys away, or watering plants.

WRAP-UP

1. Ask children to bring baby toys to class that they no longer play with. Donate to Goodwill, The Salvation Army, or other organizations in your community that distribute toys to children who need them.
2. In *My Heartwood Journal* have children draw pictures of themselves enjoying a special time with family members. Record children's thoughts about what they drew.

EXTENSION

Children complete the Home Connection Page and teachers record their responses. Send these pages home to children's families.

Expressive Arts

DRAMA/LANGUAGE

1. Prop Box: Use items in the box for retelling and acting out the story or for small group creative play.
2. Mini-Manners Plays*: With finger puppets, model love as support or reassurance. For example:
 - Puppet 1: I'm tired of waiting.
 - Puppet 2: Let me tell you a story.
 - Puppet 1: Thank you!
 - Puppet 2: You're welcome!
3. Teach children to sign "I Love You."