

Lesson Plan: The Bird and the Sheep - A Tale of Teamwork

Materials Needed:

- **For Storytelling Puppets:** 2 paper lunch bags or socks, construction paper (brown, white, black, yellow), scissors, glue or tape, googly eyes (optional), black marker.
- **For Nest Building:** A small paper bowl, twigs/straw/shredded paper from the yard, cotton balls (to represent wool), play-doh or non-toxic glue.
- **For Drawing:** A large piece of paper or poster board, crayons or markers.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to:

- Retell a simple story's main events in their own words using puppets.
- Identify a problem and a solution within the story.
- Design and create a 3D model of a bird's nest using various materials.
- Explain how two different characters can help each other using their unique abilities.

Lesson Activities & Procedure:

Part 1: The Story (10 minutes)

Instructional Strategy: Interactive Storytelling

Teacher's Role: Before the lesson, create simple puppets. For the bird, glue paper wings and a beak to one bag. For the sheep, glue cotton balls and paper ears to the other. Settle into a cozy spot with your student to tell the story.

The Story of the Helpful Friends:

"Once upon a time, a little Bird was trying to build a nest for her eggs. She gathered twigs and leaves, but her nest was scratchy and hard. 'Oh dear,' she chirped sadly. 'This isn't cozy at all!'"

Nearby, a fluffy Sheep was trying to reach the sweet, red berries at the very top of a tall bush. He stretched and stretched, but his legs were too short. 'Baa,' he sighed. 'Those berries look so delicious, but I can't reach them.'

The Bird saw the sad Sheep. She flew over and asked, 'What's wrong?' The Sheep explained about the berries. The Bird had an idea! She flew up to the bush, plucked the best berries with her beak, and dropped them down to the Sheep.

'Oh, thank you!' bleated the Sheep, munching happily. 'You helped me! How can I help you?'

The Bird explained her scratchy nest problem. The Sheep had an idea! He wiggled and shook until a few

soft, fluffy clumps of his wool fell to the ground. 'Here,' he said. 'Take my soft wool for your nest.'

The Bird happily gathered the wool and wove it into her nest, making it the softest, coziest home ever. The Bird and the Sheep were both happy because they had used their special talents to help a friend."

Part 2: Let's Re-tell the Story! (10 minutes)

Instructional Strategy: Kinesthetic Learning & Creative Expression

Teacher's Role: Hand the puppets to the student. Encourage them to act out the story as you ask guiding questions. This assesses their comprehension in a playful way.

1. **Give the student the puppets.** Say, "Now it's your turn to be the storyteller! Can you make the sheep look for berries?"
2. **Ask guiding questions to prompt the retelling:**
 - "What was the sheep's problem? Can you show me with the puppet?"
 - "What was the bird's problem? How did the bird feel?"
 - "How did the bird solve the sheep's problem? Let's make the bird puppet fly!"
 - "What did the sheep give the bird to say thank you and help her?"
 - "How did they feel at the end of the story? Why?"

Part 3: Creative Application - Build a Cozy Nest! (15 minutes)

Instructional Strategy: Hands-On, Project-Based Learning

Teacher's Role: Set up a "Nest Building Station" with the paper bowl, twigs, shredded paper, and cotton balls. Frame the activity as a creative challenge.

1. **Present the challenge:** "Just like the bird in our story, you get to build a super cozy nest! But you have a problem to solve: how can you make it strong on the outside but soft on the inside?"
2. **Build the base:** Guide the student to press a small amount of play-doh into the bottom of the bowl or use glue. This acts as the anchor.
3. **Weave the structure:** Encourage them to stick the twigs and shredded paper into the play-doh/glue, building up the sides of the bowl. Ask, "Is this strong like the outside of a nest?"
4. **Make it cozy:** Say, "Now, let's remember how the sheep helped. What can we use to make the inside soft and comfy for the baby birds?" Guide them to place the cotton balls ("wool") inside the nest.
5. **Reflect:** Ask, "Does your nest feel strong and soft? You solved the problem, just like the bird and sheep!"

Part 4: Movement and Closure - Fly & Graze (5 minutes)

Instructional Strategy: Gross Motor Activity & Reinforcement

Teacher's Role: Clear a small space for movement to get the wiggles out and reinforce the story's concepts.

- Say, "Let's pretend to be the bird! Spread your wings and fly around the room looking for berries!" (Student can run/glide around the room).
- Say, "Now let's be the sheep! Get on your hands and knees and pretend to graze on grass. Baa! Baa!"
- To finish, say "Now let's be happy friends! Give me a high-five! You did a great job helping the bird and sheep today."

Assessment (Informal & Observational):

- **Comprehension:** Did the student accurately use the puppets to act out the main problem and solution from the story?
- **Creative Application:** Observe the nest-building process. Did the student intentionally use the "hard" materials for structure and the "soft" materials for comfort?
- **Conceptual Understanding:** Listen to the student's answer when asked how the characters helped each other. Do they grasp the concept of using different skills for teamwork?

Differentiation & Extension:

- **For Extra Support:** Pre-tell the story a few times. During the nest build, help guide the student's hands to place the materials. Use simple "What happened next?" prompts for the puppet show.
- **For an Extra Challenge:** Ask "what if" questions. "What if there was a squirrel in the story? How could the squirrel help?" Encourage the student to draw a detailed picture of the story, adding new characters or elements, and then tell you the "new" story they created.