

# Beyond the Book Activities

## *Do You Want to be my Friend?* By Eric Carle

**Parents/Caregivers: Why do books matter? It all comes down to ABCs.**

- **A child deserves to be prepared:** Educators emphasize that reading with your preschool child is one of the most important activities to prepare them for kindergarten.
- **Books are essential:** Studies by the National Assessment of Educational Progress organization have consistently found that the more reading material available in the home, the better students' reading levels are likely to be.
- **Cost of children not being prepared:** According to the Wilder Research, in Minnesota, the cost of children entering kindergarten unprepared is approximately \$113 million annually to school systems due to increased:
  - Student aid
  - Special education and grade repetition
  - Teacher related costs
  - Impact on school safety due to delinquent behavior

Utilize the following activities to take you and your child(ren) beyond the book you just read.

These activities were developed through the cooperation of United Way Success By 6, Marshall Lyon County Public Library and Marshall ECFE Little Cubs.

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### Supplies Needed

#### **Activity 1**

- Construction paper
- Glue
- Yarn
- Tape
- Markers
- Paper punch

#### **Activity 2**

- Scissors
- Crayons

- Paper plate
- Wiggle eyes

#### **Activity 3**

- Scissors
- Glue
- Pink yarn
- Pink construction paper
- Marker
- Small paper plate
- Wiggle eyes

**\*Read book before getting ready for each activity.**

## Activity 1: Friendship Quilt

**Supplies you'll need:** Small construction paper squares-assortment of colors (about 2"x 2"), markers, 9 x 12 construction paper, glue, yarn with ends taped, paper punch, tape



**Directions:** Explain to your child how quilts are sometimes made by sewing squares of material together. If you have a quilt, you could show them.

- Explain that you are all going to work together to create a family quilt.
- Give your child half a piece of construction paper.
- Have your child glue different color squares on the paper
- When your child has finished, punch holes around edge, about an inch apart.
- Give your child a piece of yarn that has the end taped. This will allow the child to easily string the yarn through the holes.
- Explain to your child that they need to sew their quilt using their yarn and the holes that are punched.
- Once the child has completed his/her quilt, have them make some more if they like and connect the quilt squares by overlapping two squares and sewing through two holes to connect two squares together.

## Activity 2: Snake Plate

**Supplies you'll need:** Paper plates, scissors, crayons, wiggle eyes



**Directions:** For this activity your child will make snakes out of paper plates. Look in the book and ask your child to identify the color of the snake.

- Discuss the fact that different types of snakes are different colors.
- Give your child a paper plate.
- Instruct your child to color both sides of their plates completely.
- After the plate is colored, cut inward in a circular motion.
- Gently pull the coiled plate down so the snake is somewhat uncoiled.
- Have your child add wiggly eyes and a red tongue if they desire.

## Activity 3: Where is the Mouse?

**Supplies you'll need:** Small paper plate, scissors, glue, wiggle eyes, markers, pink construction paper, pink yarn



**Directions:**

- Give your child a paper plate, explain that this is a whole plate.
- Have your child cut the paper plate in half. Hold up one piece, explaining that this is half a plate.

- Direct your child to put both halves back together. Ask your child if they now have a whole or a half.
- Tell your child they will now use half of their paper plate to make a mouse.
- Give them some pink construction paper to make ears, some pink yarn for a tail, and wiggly eyes.
- Allow them to glue all of the pieces together to create their mouse.