

# Beyond the Book Activities

## *My Friends* By Taro Gomi

**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**

- Paper
- Pencils

#### **Activity 2**

- Masking tape

#### **Activity 3**

- Small board book
- Paper

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

## **Activity 1: Smallest and Largest**

**Supplies you'll need:** Paper and pencils

**Directions:**

- Discuss with your child all the friends the little girl meets in the book.
- Make a t-chart and mark "Small Animals" on one side and "Large Animals" on the other.
- Discuss with your child which is the largest friend and which is the smallest, marking them on the t-chart in the appropriate column.
- Ask your child to think of some other large and small animals and mark them on the chart also.

## **Activity 2: Exploring the Earth**

**Supplies you'll need:** Masking tape

**Directions:**

- Turn to the page in the book where the little girl is exploring the earth. (Page that reads, "the earth with my friend the ant")
- Have your child describe the things that she sees.
- Place a bracelet of masking tape sticky side out on your child's wrist.
- Take your child for a short nature walk, allowing her to place small things she finds on her bracelets.
- After the walk, have your child tell about some of the items she found.

## **Activity 3: The Balancing Act**

**Supplies you'll need:** Small board book and piece of paper

**Directions:**

- Show your child the title page and the last page of *My Friends*.
- Ask your child: "What does the little girl have on her head? How is she balancing that bird and mouse?"
- Using the small board book, invite your child to try and balance the book on their head.
- Record on a piece of paper or white board, how many seconds they can balance the book.
- You could also have your child walk while trying to balance the book on their head.