

Lesson 23: Board Books – Fun and Play

“The imagination is an essential tool of the mind, a fundamental way of thinking, an indispensable means of becoming and remaining human.”

—Ursula K. LeGuin

Social Justice Standard: Diversity 9

Summary

Everyone loves to have fun! How you like to play may change from person to person, but at the end of the day, finding ways to experience the world around you is exciting. As you read the books in this lesson, notice all of the ways that these characters like to have fun—you might be surprised to find that you have some play practices in common!

Booklist

- *Please, Baby, Please* by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee, illustrated by Kadir Nelson
- *My Friends* by Taro Gomi
- *Making Faces: A First Book of Emotion*
- *Whose Knees Are These* by Jabari Asim, illustrated by LeUyen Pham
- *I Know a Lot!* by Stephen Krensky, illustrated by Sara Gillingham

Consider This

- What do you remember about playing as a kid?
- Do you still find ways to “play” as an adult? What do you do for fun?
- Have you had any changes of heart around certain activities? Something that was once fun is not fun anymore? Or the other way around?

Talk Together

- What is your favorite way to play?
- Have you ever had a similar experience to a character in one of these books?
- Do you like to play by yourself or with friends? Does the way you play change whether you are alone or with others?

Engage

Go out and play! Use the books as your inspiration for a morning or afternoon play session, and while you're out, see if you can notice any more similarities along the way!

Explore More

What Do We Do All Day's "Play Activities for Kids"

"The Importance of Play Through Learning" by Heidi Borst (U.S. New and World Report, December 10, 2021)