

A WEEKEND WITH WENDELL

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By Kevin Henkes

Themes: Friendship/Overnights

Grade Level: Pre-K-2

Running Time: 9 minutes

SUMMARY

Spending a weekend with Wendell is anything but fun and games until Sophie asserts herself and shows Wendell that sometimes she has to be boss too.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about cooperation.
- Children will explore problem-solving techniques.
- Children will explore an over-night experience.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about their own overnight experiences. Ask: What kinds of things were you worried about? What was the most fun? How did you feel when you got home? What would you do to make yourself comfortable the next time you sleep away from home?

Provide a box or suitcase. Have children pretend that this is the suitcase to bring on an overnight trip. Ask: What would you pack in your suitcase? As children describe the items they would pack, encourage them to talk about why these items are necessary.

Have children describe special friends or relatives

that they would enjoy spending an overnight with. Encourage them to talk about experiences they have had spending time with these special people in their lives. Help children consider the things about these people that make them feel good/comfortable.

Share the book A WEEKEND WITH WENDELL with children. Then ask:

- Did you ever play with someone like Wendell? How did you handle the problems that arose?
- How does Sophie change Wendell's behavior? What other things could she do to make things more fair between herself and Wendell?
- What should Sophie do to prepare for Wendell's next visit?
- What kinds of things do you think Wendell can learn from Sophie?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Remind children of the games Wendell and Sophie enjoy during the video, including playing house, hospital, and bakery shop.

Then have children dramatize a day at the bakery show in the classroom. Work with children to paint a bakery backdrop on a large white sheet. Have children in the class take on the roles of the baker, customer, and pastries in the bakery show case, including sweet rolls, doughnuts, cookies and cakes. You might suggest that children representing pastries curl up on the floor if they are sweet buns, or stretch their bodies into long cruller shapes. Provide baskets that can be used as shopping baskets, play money, a toy cash register, and other props that might be need-

ed in the dramatizations.

Ask children to think about someone they would like to invite home for a sleep over. Encourage children to think about ways they might make the person feel at home once he/she is at your house, considering the things they might do together, where they might sleep, the meals they might enjoy, etc.

Then provide paper and pencils children can use to write invitations for the make-believe, over-night adventure. Encourage children to make their invitations as exciting and fun-filled as they can. Later, have children read their invitations to the group.

Discuss children's favorite blankets, toys, pillows, etc. that they use to help themselves feel comfortable at night. Encourage children to describe these possessions in as much detail as possible. Have children bring the items into the classroom and share them with the group.

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