

# CORDUROY

## CORDUROY

By Don Freeman (Viking)

Themes: Friendship/ Caring/ Self-Esteem

Grade Level: Pre-K-3

Running Time: 16 minutes, live action

## SUMMARY

The setting for CORDUROY is a department store. One day, a young girl discovers a stuffed bear on the shelf of the toy department while on a shopping trip with her mother. Although the girl wants the bear, her mother suggests that this bear is not worth buying because he has a button missing and does not look new.

Hearing this, Corduroy, the bear, searches the department store for a new button after the girl and her mother leave. Corduroy has several exciting adventures after leaving the shelf, including a train ride, a fall into a barrel of balls, and an interesting experience with a boat. Finally, he reaches the furniture department of the store and finds a mattress with buttons just perfect for him. When he tries to pull up the button, a floor lamp falls and the crash brings a security guard to the scene. The security guard discovers Corduroy and returns him to the toy department. The next day, the girl returns to the store to buy the bear.

The story ends with the girl and Corduroy at home. She sews a button on his trousers and gives him his name.

## OBJECTIVES

- Children will investigate the meaning of friendship.
- Children will explore ways to show caring.
- Children will talk about self-esteem.

Share the book CORDUROY with children. Ask:

- What kind of movie would you make out of this book?

- Would you use the drawings in the book, or do it some other way?

Have the children explain their reasons. Talk with children about their favorite toys, including stuffed animals. Ask:

- Who gave you this toy?
- How long have you had it?
- Where do you keep it?
- Why is this toy special to you?
- How would you feel if, for one reason or another, you could not have this toy any longer?

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Provide children with bear shapes cut from pieces of tagboard. Provide fabric scraps, buttons, markers, glue, and scissors. Have children use the supplies to create bears of their very own. Later, have children use the bears as props for storytelling. As children invent stories that include their bear friends, and share them with the class, have them move the bear to emphasize the drama of the story.

Emphasize to children that we are each unique and special in our own ways. Have them draw their faces on a paper plate. Hang art all over the classroom. Have each child tell what is special about his/her neighbor in the class.

Talk with children about the feelings that exist between Corduroy and his new owner. Ask:

- How can you tell that Lisa cares for Corduroy?
- Does it matter to Lisa when Corduroy has a button missing?
- Do you decide whom your friends will be by

how they look?

- What are the things about your friends that make them special to you?

Later, help children make simple friendship cards by folding pieces of manila paper in half. Have children decorate the cards and create simple caring messages inside. Encourage children to deliver their cards to their special friends the next time they see them. Emphasize to children that it is important to let people we care about know how we feel.

Help children build skill in classifying with the following field trip experience. Draw up a list of items that can be found in a department store. Give a copy of the list to each child in the group. Then visit a department store with children. Have them search for the items on the list. As children hunt, talk about the ways the objects are categorized in the store. When you return to the classroom, allow time for children to talk about their favorite parts of the store and, in particular, the place where they would be most likely to find Corduroy!

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