



Book Activity Sheet

Leo the Late Bloomer

By Robert Kraus

Leo the Lion takes his time learning to read, write, draw, eat neatly, and speak. Leo's father is concerned about the pace his son is taking to develop, but Leo's mother reassures him that "A watched bloomer doesn't bloom."

Things to Talk About:

Individuality: No two children learn to talk, express themselves, or tie their shoes in the same way. Every child grows at his or her own pace. Ask children about skills they currently have that took them a while to learn and develop. (Ex: "How did you feel when you were first learning to ride a bike?") Have the kids compare things that were easier for them to learn to things that were harder for them to learn.

Growing Up: Even though Leo's father was impatient for his son to grow and develop, he probably had difficulty learning new things when he was little. Share things that were hard for you to learn when you were young.

Patience: Talk about how it feels to be waiting for something to happen. (Maybe it's hard to wait for the pizza delivery person once the pizza has been ordered. Maybe it's hard for children to wait for certain holidays.) Explain that being patient isn't always easy.

Activities to Do:

1. "Things I Want to Try" Collage

You Will Need: construction paper, old magazines, scissors, crayons/markers, glue, photographs of your children

What to Do: Give each child his or her photograph to glue or tape onto a piece of construction paper. On top of the paper, write the words, "Things _____ wants to try." Have the children look through magazines for pictures of things that they want to try as they get older. If your children can't find pictures for the kinds of things they hope to try, encourage them to draw their own pictures. As you work together, talk with the children about the pictures they have chosen.

2. Plant a "Self Confidence Garden"

You Will Need: You will need a 3"-4" circle and five or six petal shapes for each student and for Leo. Put Leo's name on one flower and your students' names on the rest of the circles. The students can also write their own names on each circle.

What to Do: After you've read the story, have the students tell you what things Leo could do after he "bloomed." Write these things on the petals (one on each petal). Glue the petals to the Leo's circle. Have the students write things that they can do on their petals. Besides things learned at school they might write things like ride a bike, swim, jump rope, play games, or skate. After they have glued their petals to their circles, display the flowers with Leo's in the middle as a reminder that everyone has strengths and everyone learns at his or her own pace.



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Do Activities to Build On What You've Watched.**