



READING TOGETHER

David Next Door

Use these simple activities to have fun reading together!

Discuss Friendship

In *David Next Door*, David becomes friends with a boy next door. The two boys have many differences, but that doesn't stop them from being friends. Talk with your child about the differences between the two boys in the book. Then share with each other some of the differences and similarities you each share with your friends. Help your child understand that differences between friends can help both people learn new things and understand new viewpoints.

Talk About Overcoming Challenges

Ask your child, "What challenges does David face in the story?" Help your child identify some of the challenges David faces. The following details from the story help to show David's challenges:

- "David leans to the side when he walks." (pg. 2)
- David "needs a friend." (pg. 7)
- "David can't even hear me say *hello*." (pg. 7)

Talk to your child about how David overcomes his challenges—for example, he talks with his hands, finds joy in playing ball, and becomes friends with the boy telling the story. Help your child understand that we all face some challenges in life. Talk to your child about some of the challenges you have each faced and how you have overcome them.

Communicate Without Words

Point out to your child that even though David doesn't hear or talk, he still has ways to show how he's feeling. For example, David smiles when he's having fun (pg. 4), points at things when he's curious (pg. 5), cries when he's afraid (pg. 9), and sings a "song without words" when he's happy (pg. 12).

Discuss with your child that some people don't speak or hear, but they still have ways to communicate. With your child, practice some ways of communicating with people who are unable to speak or hear. For example, you can show feelings through facial expressions, share ideas by drawing pictures, and express thoughts in writing. You can even learn some basic sign language together. The American Sign Language Dictionary (<https://www.signasl.org/>) is a great resource for learning words in sign language.

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