

The Summer Nick Taught His Cats To Read

The 2017 CLEL Bell Award Book for READ



by Curtis Manley, illustrated by Kate Berube
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Nick loves spending time with his cats, except when he wants to read: his cats lay on the pages of the books and make nuisances of themselves! Nick decides to teach his cats to read, so they can all enjoy books together. Just like Nick's cats, some children will be enthusiastic learners and others will struggle. This book describes a wonderful variety of activities that will support all children on their learning journeys.

Activity Ideas for *The Summer Nick Taught His Cats to Read*:

- Nick enjoys reading to his cats. Encourage children to find a friend to practice "reading" with. The friend can be a pet, a stuffed toy, or a caregiver who is a good listener. Long before children learn to read, "pretend" reading helps them practice using books (how to hold a book, or turn pages one at a time), describe illustrations, and retell favorite stories—all skills that will help them when they are readers too.
- Encourage children to be storytellers by acting out new and familiar stories. Make props from recycled materials and items around the house or classroom. Fold a pirate hat from newspaper like Nick and his cats, climb aboard a laundry basket boat, and sail away. Keep the story going by asking, "And then what happened?"
- Nick uses nursery rhymes to teach his cats to read. When children memorize nursery rhymes, they hear rhymes and new words, practice basic sentence structures, and learn how stories work. Many nursery rhymes are short stories that can be sung or chanted, such as *The Three Little Kittens*.

The three little kittens, they lost their mittens, and they began to cry

"Oh mother dear, we sadly fear our mittens have been lost!"

"What! Lost your mittens, you naughty kittens, then you shall have no pie."

"Meow meow meow—we shall have no pie."

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org> and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.



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