

Learning possibilities

Text: Lionni, L 1995, *It's mine!* Scholastic, New York.

Engage

- Step 1. If you have this book at home, encourage your child/children to predict what the story is about from the cover. If not use the suggested video link in the Resources box and watch the story together.
- Step 2. Read/watch the story and encourage your child/children to join in.
- Step 3. Invite your child/children to recall the characters in the story.
- Step 4. Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.
1. Where did the frogs live?
 2. Instead of always saying 'It's mine', what else could the frogs have done?
 3. What does it mean if you are trembling?
 4. What might have happened if the toad did not help the frogs?

Respond

Talk about friendship and feelings with your child/children using the following questions as prompts:

- How does it feel when someone shares with you?
- How does it feel when someone won't share with you?
- How does your body feel when you are sad, happy, excited?

Talk about the language children need to use for sharing, explaining by example, 'When I want to have a turn with a toy I could say "Can I have a turn now please Jack?'" Also talk about the importance of learning to wait, a concept that is often challenging for little children. When sharing a toy a timer on your phone, a microwave or a sand timer can be used to provide a cue about the length of time needed to wait when sharing favourite items.

Extend

- Build vocabulary by explaining that there were some new words in the story that children may not have heard before. Explore children's understanding of the words. Have some fun with other unusual words – look some up online.
- Retell the story using a shallow plastic storage box and encourage your child/children to make a plan of what they could use to make the island, the frogs and the toad.
- Make some finger paint and explore the ways that the floodwater moved. Use expressive language, for example: swishing, swirling, sloshing and pouring. As finger paint is a messy play experience set it up outside on a children's play table that can be hosed off, or on a plastic tray or a plastic tablecloth spread on the lawn.

RESOURCES

Video

Einsteinz Music – Jules sings "A Frog Went Walking" (YouTube, EinsteinzMusic)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5v8vy3EpMGI>

Five Little Speckled Frogs | Kids Songs | Super Simple Songs (YouTube, Super Simple Songs – Kids Songs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtX8yVEF0-w>

It's Mine! by Leo Lionni (YouTube, Grandma Annii)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ny25RTHX4vo>