

Feeling Safe

Children will learn about and discuss what it means to feel safe and what helps them feel safe.

Setting

- whole group
- small group

Materials

- book: Owen by Kevin Henkes
- drawing sheet for each child
- chart paper or whiteboard with marker
- drawing/writing materials

Preparation

Read Owen and decide where you might stop to have students talk about the book or their personal experiences. **Think about what you would draw and write as a response to “What is something that makes you feel safe?”** Make copies of the drawing sheet.

1. INTRODUCE

“**Today we**’re going to read the book Owen by Kevin Henkes. This is a story about a mouse named Owen and Fuzzy, his fuzzy yellow blanket. For Owen, Fuzzy is essential because it makes him feel safe. When something is essential, **you need it and can’t be without it. When** Owen feels scared, he needs Fuzzy to help him feel that everything will be okay. Fuzzy is **Owen’s security blanket.** Security is another word you can use to talk about things that help you feel safe. While we read, I want you to think about this question: **Why does Owen feel he needs to carry Fuzzy everywhere?”**

Read the story. Stop during reading to ask questions and respond to students’ idea.

Consider these possible stopping points and discussion questions:

- Pg. 2: Where does Owen take Fuzzy? (Look at the pictures, too.)
- Pg. 5: **Let’s make a prediction.** What do you think is going to happen next? (Do you think Owen is going to put Fuzzy under his pillow or hide Fuzzy?)
- Pg. 7: **Let’s check our prediction(s).** What does Owen do? (We thought, and now we see that Owen hid Fuzzy in his pajamas.)
- Pg. 16: How do Owen’s mom and dad feel about Fuzzy?
- Pg. 21: How does Owen’s mom solve the problem?

2. MODEL AND EXPLAIN

Discuss book: **“Remember our question: Why does Owen feel he needs to carry Fuzzy everywhere?”**

Possible answers:

- Fuzzy helps Owen feel better if he’s scared.
- Owen had Fuzzy since he was a baby, so it comforts him
- Owen feels safe when he has Fuzzy.

Consider asking these additional questions:

- What else do you think makes Owen feel safe?
- What or who makes you feel safe?

Explain Draw & Write: **“Now we’re going to draw and write about what makes us feel safe.”**

Model: **“I will show you first.”** On chart paper or the whiteboard, draw what makes you feel safe. Think aloud as you draw:

- **“I’m going to think about what makes me feel safe. I’m going to draw myself, and what it is that makes me feel safe.”** Tell students what’s happening as you draw it. Tell a story: **“I remember one time…”**
- **“Now I’m going to write a sentence at the bottom about what makes me feel safe and why. ‘I feel safe when…’ When it’s your turn to draw, I can help you write your message at the bottom of your page.”**

3. GUIDE PRACTICE

“Now it is your turn.” Transition to tables and pass out materials and the drawing sheets to the students. Read prompt: **“What is something that makes you feel safe?”**

As you walk around supporting students, help each student write a summary sentence in the space provided at the bottom of the page.

4. SUMMARIZE

“Everyone gets scared or worried sometimes, and usually people have something or someone that helps make them feel safe. For Owen, it was Fuzzy the blanket, which became a handkerchief. Mrs. Tweezers also had a handkerchief. Other people have a stuffed animal, a picture, or a necklace or watch. It can also be a person who makes you feel safe, like your mom or dad. It helps when you have something or someone to hug or hold on to, but even if they’re not there, just thinking about them might help you feel better and safe.”

SCAFFOLDING

Less Support:

- Restate the original question.
- Ask the student to label him/herself.
- Ask the student what’s happening in the picture so far.
- Give encouragement: **“That’s good. You can draw it!”**

More Support: Ask questions:

- **“Tell me a time that you were scared and what helped you feel better or safe.”**
- **“What is something or someone who makes you feel safe or calm?”**
- **“What does it feel like to you to be safe?”**

TEACHER TIPS

- Be sensitive to what students and their families have experienced and may have lost during the flooding.
- Students may not have something or someone that makes them feel safe at the moment, because of Hurricane Harvey and the flooding, or another traumatic event. Refer students to a professional social worker or psychologist if needed.

INSTRUCTIONAL ALIGNMENTS

Head Start	Texas Pre-K Guidelines	Kindergarten TEKS	1st grade TEKS
Goal P-SE 6. Child expresses a broad range of emotions and recognizes these emotions in self and others.	I.B.2.a. Child begins to understand difference and connection between emotions/feelings and behaviors.	§110.2(b)(1)(A) listen actively and ask questions to understand information and answer questions using multi-word responses	§110.3(b)(1)(A) listen actively, ask relevant questions to clarify information, and answer questions using multi-word responses
Goal P-LIT 5. Child asks and answers questions about a book that was read aloud.	III.D.2. Child uses information learned from books by describing, relating, categorizing, or comparing and contrasting.	§110.2(b)(5)(C) make and confirm predictions using text features and structures with adult assistance	§110.3(b)(6)(C) make and correct or confirm predictions using text features, characteristics of genre, and structures with adult assistance
Goal P-LIT 6. Child writes for a variety of purposes using increasingly sophisticated marks.	III.D.3. Child asks and responds to questions relevant to the text read aloud.	§110.2(b)(5)(E) make connections to personal experiences, ideas in other texts, and society with adult assistance	§110.3(b)(6)(E) make connections to personal experiences, ideas in other texts, and society with adult assistance
	III.D.4. Child will make inferences and predictions about text.	§110.2(b)(6)(B) provide an oral, pictorial, or written response to a text	
	IV.A.2. Child independently writes to communicate his/her ideas for a variety of purposes.		

Name: _____



What is something that makes you feel safe?

Take dictation: