



School-Home Connection

Your child is reading a play called “The Crowded House,” based on a Jewish folktale. The play tells the story of an eleven-member family who feel extremely crowded in a tiny cottage. The local wise man’s advice just makes the situation worse. But in the end, the family learns the wisdom of being grateful for what they have. You and your child may have fun sharing this repetitive story and doing the activities on this page. Together you can enrich your child’s language skills.

Stage Stars

Reading to each other is a wonderful way to enjoy a story. For the play, consider dividing the roles and perhaps using different voices for each character. You could even add sound effects.

VOCABULARY

Match Syllables

While reading “The Crowded House,” your child has learned the following new vocabulary:

wits
wailing
advice

dreadful
fairing
farewell

Play a syllable game. Together, write each syllable on a slip of paper. Place the slips face down in a pile and mix them up. Take turns drawing syllables and trying to make a vocabulary word. To be able to make a word, a player must use the word correctly in a sentence. Otherwise, the last syllable drawn is returned to the pile. When the syllables have all be drawn, players may ask each other for the syllables they need. Play until you make all the words.



TIME TO READ

Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day.

Find it Fast!

While reading this play, your child is learning some important skills that require reading quickly:

- scanning to find specific information and
- skimming to find the overall ideas.

You can demonstrate the importance of these skills by scanning for things such as a number in the phone book. Ask your child to scan the newspaper for you to find the times at which a movie is showing or the dates of a sale at a local store. Have your child skim a news story and tell you the gist of it.

