A SICK DAY FOR AMOS MCGEE

Empathy

Preschool

This book is about an empathetic zookeeper and his friendship with some of the animals at the zoo. It demonstrates the ways friends understand each other's unique needs, care for one another, and provide support when they need it most.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES	INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES
	Children will: **Teachers will:**
RELATE	♦ Notice when others are in need ♦ Narrate and Label Empathy

TEACHING TIP

Empathy means being able to put yourself 'in someone else's shoes' to understand better what they're feeling and experiencing. Even though young children are still learning about their own emotions and how to manage them, it's important that they also consider *others'* feelings and needs. You can encourage them to think about how someone else feels by talking about and describing what they might be experiencing. Together, you come up with ways to respond to those in need in caring and thoughtful ways.

1. INTRODUCE

♦ "Everybody needs help sometimes, especially when they're not feeling well or having a hard day. Friends are good at taking care of each other because they know what their friends like and need. Today we're going to read *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*. We'll see how these friends are kind to one another in their own special way."

2. READ THE BOOK

♦ Pause occasionally to narrate and label empathy.

Narrate and Label Empathy		
Read: "He would play chess with the elephant (who thought and thought before making a move)…"	**Read:** "…sit quietly with the penguin (who was very shy)…"	**Read:** "'I'm too tired to run races today…'"
Narrate: "The elephant is thoughtful. He doesn't like to rush. He takes his time to think."	**Narrate:** "The penguin is shy, so he needs a little quiet time before he feels comfortable talking."	**Narrate:** "The tortoise is playing hide-and-seek with Amos instead of racing like they usually do."
Label: "Amos understands that his friend needs time to make a decision, just like you may sometimes need some extra time to think or decide. So, he waits while the elephant is thoughtful and makes up his mind about what to do next. Amos gives him the time that he needs."	**Label:** "Amos understands that his friend is shy and that he may not be ready to talk right away. He knows the penguin needs time to wait and see how things are going until he's ready. So, Amos sits with him quietly and waits until he's ready."	**Label:** "The tortoise understands that Amos isn't feeling well, so he does what Amos wants to do and can do. Even though the tortoise likes to race, he knows that his friend needs to do something different today because of the way he is feeling."

3. REVIEW

♦ "The zookeeper and the animals were kind and caring to each other in ways that they knew were special to each friend. The zookeeper knew that the elephant was thoughtful, so he gave him time to think. Amos knew that the penguin was shy, so he quietly sat with him until he was ready. And the tortoise understood that Amos wasn't feeling well, so they did something different because of how Amos was feeling."

4. KEEP IT GOING

♦ When appropriate, provide children with opportunities to consider the feelings, perspectives, and needs of others. Work with them to think about meaningful ways to respond based on how the other person is feeling. Highlight examples of empathy that may have happened earlier in the day.