



## The Perfect Present by Fiona Robertson

During October 2012 we featured three beautiful books about making new friends and holding onto old ones. These stories are great for teaching young children about being kind, accepting others and also what it means to be a good friend.



Henry has the Perfect Pet – a duck call Spot – who thinks he's found the Perfect Present for Henry's Birthday. But when the big day comes, Henry's grandparents arrive with a Perfect Present of their own – a strange and wobbling box – with something inside that could change things between Spot and Henry forever...

### Key Message for Parents

#### The Best Learning Happens In Nurturing Relationships

- Children have better outcomes when they have relationships that are consistent, warm and loving.
- Sometimes you don't have to do anything special – just spend time talking, cuddling, tickling, giggling and just messing around. You are never 'wasting time' while you are having fun with your child.

### EYLF Learning Outcomes

#### Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

- Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect.

### Welcome

Sharing a welcome song helps develop strong relationships between you, children and their families, which in turn promotes strong wellbeing.

### Book Introduction

Gain the children's attention with a big box with a ribbon on top (like the cover illustration). Have a toy duck or a picture of a duck inside. Give the children some clues as to what might be inside the box, for example,

- It is an animal
- It lives in ponds
- It has webbed feet

Introduce the children to the characters. This is the second book about Henry and his pet duck Spot. You can read about how Henry and Spot met in *Wanted: The Perfect Pet*.

Although this book can be read on it's own, reading the first book in the series will give the children a context and background information to the story that will enhance their enjoyment and comprehension.



## During Reading

There is a lot of excitement in this story. Trying to make your voice match the emotions in the text will help keep children's attention.

## After Reading

This book lends itself to some great discussions about friendship and feelings of jealousy and acceptance.

You may want to use some of the following questions as starting points:

- Why was Spot worried by the arrival of the Dog?
- So you think Henry would like Spot any less now he has a dog?
- Can you only be friends with one other person?
- What would be good about having more than one friend?
- Why is Spot jealous of the Dog?
- Should Spot run away?
- What would have been a better thing to do?
- Could Henry have done anything to stop Spot from feeling jealous?

## Songs and Rhymes

Talk about some of the different feelings in the story, like excited, sad, scared, lonely, happy etc...

Explore these different feelings by singing *If You're Happy and You Know It*

Encourage the children to think up a facial expression or action to match each feeling.

## Activity Time

### A Box Filled With Love

- You will need a variety of empty boxes, wrapping paper (scraps and already used paper is fine) or newspaper, sticky tape, ribbons and bows and some cut out heart shapes.
- Let the children choose a box and a heart shape to put inside to fill their box with love.
- The children will then enjoy wrapping their present with the paper, bows and ribbons you have supplied.
- If you don't have any wrapping paper newspaper can work just as well. Once the present is wrapped the children can decorate it with textas to brighten it up a bit.
- Talk about who they are going to give their box of love too.
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### LBBC Activity Time

Make your very own Puppet Pet by simply downloading for FREE Perfect Pet activity time sheet from the following link [www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/resources/the-perfect-present-activity-time](http://www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/resources/the-perfect-present-activity-time)