

# Talking About Stories

## Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten

by Joseph Slate

In this book, a teacher prepares for the first day of kindergarten and so do her twenty-six students—one for each letter of the alphabet. There are lots of fun pictures and rhymes that make this book a favorite for children.

There are many ways to make reading this book together a terrific learning experience for your child. Here are some activities you can try before, during and after reading the book. Don't try to do all the activities at once—but don't worry! Young children love to hear stories read aloud over and over again, which gives them opportunities to learn about how stories work, to listen to the sounds of language, to make predictions and practice new vocabulary words.

So, let's get started!

Before you read the book, look at the pictures on the cover. From the pictures, can your child guess what the book will be about and who some of the characters will be? Since the book talks about the first day of kindergarten, talk about something new that you tried—maybe your own first day of school, or the first time you tried to drive a car. How did you feel? How does your child feel about the first day of school?

As you read the story together, talk about what the different students do to get ready for kindergarten, like brushing their teeth or getting on the school bus. Are these things your child has done or will do? Point to the first letter of

each student's name and show her that the book uses all the letters in the alphabet. As your child becomes more familiar with the story and with the alphabet, ask her to say the first letter of each student's name when you come to it. Try pausing at the end of each line so that your child can fill in the rhyming word.

There are lots of different animals pictured throughout this book, and at the back of the book there is a list of all the animals and their names. Talk about these animals as you look at the pictures. Your child has probably heard of some of them, like a cat, a lion and a pig, but how about a kangaroo, a hippopotamus, and a xenosaurus? Help your child say these names out loud, or look for information about them at the library or on the Internet.

After you've read the book, talk about the things Miss Bindergarten does to get ready for kindergarten. Does your child think his teacher will do the same kinds of things? Play pretend kindergarten with your child. Pretend you are the child and your child is the teacher.

If your child likes this book, you might look for these other Miss Bindergarten adventures in your library: *Miss Bindergarten Takes a Field Trip with Kindergarten*, *Miss Bindergarten Has a Wild Day in Kindergarten*, and *Miss Bindergarten Celebrates the Last Day of Kindergarten*.



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