

STUCK

PRACTICE USING PREPOSITIONS WHILE RECREATING THE TREE FROM "STUCK" BY OLIVER JEFFERS

THINK ABOUT . . .

When Floyd gets his kite stuck, he throws everything he can into the tree to get it out. This book is repetitive and provides great opportunities for children to predict what will happen next. It allows children to use their reasoning skills or come up with ideas for how the boy could have gotten his kite unstuck.

The following activity involves creating your own tree. This provides great opportunities for your child to practice using prepositions, as well as recalling events from the story.



ACTIVITY

- 1- Read through the book so your child is familiar with the story. As you read, ask open-ended and predictive questions, such as "What do you see?" or "What do you think will happen next?" These questions help your child pay attention to details and recognize the pattern in the story. Pay attention to all the different things that get stuck in the tree!
- 2- After reading, tape up your tree on a wall or door with pictures of all the items Floyd threw into the tree nearby. Start with the kite and allow your child to place the kite in the middle of the tree. Then give them directions for the rest of the items (e.g., put the ladder next to the kite or put the whale above the kite). There are many items in the book, which allows for multiple repetitions.
- 3- When giving your child directions, you could try using an auditory sandwich. First, give the direction using only auditory input (e.g., "put the boat below the kite"). Wait for your child to respond. If your child doesn't respond or puts the item in the wrong place, repeat the direction while pointing to the correct place (e.g., point to an area below the kite). Then repeat the direction using only auditory input. This strategy helps encourage your child to listen for key details.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *Stuck* by Oliver Jeffers – or follow this link for a read-aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2FHMxsg5AY&t=31s>
- Picture of a tree
- Pictures of items thrown into the tree
- Glue stick or tape
- Scissors

PREPARATION:

- 1- Print and cut out the tree and items
- 2- Find a glue stick or tape

VOCABULARY:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| • Kite | • Orangutan |
| • Shoes | • Lighthouse |
| • Cat | • Little vs big |
| • Ladder | • Under |
| • Paint | • Above |
| • Duck | • Behind |
| • Chair | • Below |
| • Bicycle | • In front |
| • Sink | • Next to |
| • Car | • Beside |
| • Whale | • Between |
| • Firetruck | |

HELPFUL TIPS:

- If you want more repetitions, you could also print out pictures of items that weren't included in the story. Additionally, you could lay the tree on the ground and instead of using tape or glue simply place the items on the tree. This would also allow you to use items around the house such as toys, writing utensils, stuffed animals, or anything else that might get stuck in a tree.

- For a more advanced activity, you could change the point of reference (i.e., don't always use the kite). For example, place the whale above the *shoe*.
- Once all the items are placed in the tree, you could also target use of prepositions by asking your child where a specific item is in relation to the kite. For example, you could ask "Where is the cat?" and your child would answer "The cat is below the kite."

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