**Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend**

Author/Illustrator: Melanie Watt

Appropriate for older kids as it is quite long. Read the title and run your finger from left to right under the words as you read. Explain that his name is Scaredy Squirrel because he is afraid of a lot of things. In this story, he is afraid to make a new friend. Point out the squirrel’s nametag. Ask “When do you wear a nametag? Why do you wear a nametag? I wonder why Scaredy Squirrel is wearing a nametag” You may wish to have some nametags available in the art centre.

**Vocabulary** – Choose one or two words to focus on during your reading time. For example, turn to the page that has a header reading: ‘How to make a Perfect First Impression’. Focus on ‘first impression’. You could say: “That means what you think the first time you meet someone. You might think….she has pretty hair or I like his shirt. When you meet someone for the first time, you get a first impression of what they are like. When I met \_\_\_\_\_ for the first time, she was wearing her Elsa shirt and I knew she liked Elsa too.” Now point to the header on the page and read it again. “Scaredy Squirrel wants to make a good first impression. Let’s see how he’s going to do that.”

For any new word you choose to focus on, use this same process:

* Repeat the word
* Give a child-friendly definition
* Give an example from the children’s experience
* Then re-read the sentence in the book.

**Print-Referencing** – There are many opportunities to point out interesting print throughout this story. Only choose one per reading session. You can point out labels with arrows, lists, titles, large letters (big voice). Point to words as you read them so children know what you are looking at while you are reading.

Discussion questions at end of book: Talk about how we make friends. Talk about how Scaredy Squirrel overcame his fears to make a friend. Invite the children to talk about how they made a new friend.

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1-877-492-8255