

Week 5: May Gibbs Tales From The Bush

Snugglepot and Cuddlepie are good friends. They are also great at making friends and being friends. In *Tales From The Bush* there are three stories where we read about just that. In *The Treasure Hunt* they make friends with Ragged Blossom. In *Ragged Blossom's Garden* they help their new friend to make a garden and give her a beautiful gift. And in the final story, *Mischievous Mrs Snake* they help Mrs Snake out of a painful situation and forgive and accept her even though she had been playing mean tricks. They are fabulous examples of what it takes to be a good friend.

Sometimes our children need a bit of extra help with learning how to make friends and how to keep being a friend. Some children need the steps of friendship broken down and explained to them, to help them understand how other kids might be feeling.

Here are some ways to use this book to help teach your little person about being a friend.

1. Talk about the things that Snugglepot and Cuddlepie notice and do that give them a chance to be good friends:
 - a. The Treasure Hunt.
 - i. They hear Ragged Blossom screaming and asking for help.
 - ii. When Ragged Blossom says she needs to leave, she says so 'wistfully' and when they ask her to stay for dinner she replies 'hopefully'. Talk about and model what the difference in her tone of voice and facial expressions might look and sound like. Explain that this is a clue to show that she really wanted to stay with them for dinner.
 - b. Ragged Blossom's Garden.
 - i. Snugglepot thought that digging a garden sounded like hard work, but he did it anyway because it is what his friends wanted to do.
 - ii. They made a gift for their friend.
 - iii. When the necklace had changed, they did not laugh at Blossom. They led her 'gently' to a puddle to let her see what had happened.
 - c. Mischievous Mrs Snake.
 - i. Snugglepot and Cuddlepie give each other compliments in the tailor shop.
 - ii. Cuddlepie heard a crying sound and went to see if he could help.

- iii. Cuddlepie offered to help Mrs Snake, even though she had been playing mean tricks. He tells her how she can behave better so that people will forgive her and makes her promise to apologise.
 - iv. Cuddlepie convinces the others to help Mrs Snake too – he shows leadership.
 - v. Discuss how Mrs Snake's behaviour had been mean, and how it had made the others feel. But once she apologised and stopped doing mean things everyone forgave her and they all became friends again.
2. Make some Gumnut baby finger puppets and practice having 'good friend' conversations. Friendship skills you can practise include:
- a. giving and receiving compliments
 - b. asking to join in play
 - c. asking others to join you in play
 - d. joining in a non-preferred activity (I would rather play trucks than sandpit, but sure, I'll play in the sandpit now. Maybe we can play trucks next time/later.)
 - e. asking for and giving forgiveness
 - f. telling someone that you do not like what they are doing and asking them to stop, and responding when someone asks you to stop

You can find finger puppets to colour in and cut out and lots of other Snugglepot and Cuddlepie activities on the fun and games page at www.maygibbs.org.

Here is the link to the puppets:

https://www.maygibbs.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/11/CDP_SC_activity_finger_puppets.pdf