

Everybody Needs a Place to Live

Developed by Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino

Growing Green: An Early Childhood Look at Ecology through Songs, Stories, and Movement

Objective/Goal:

This song is used to help children understand that everyone needs a habitat in order to live.

This experience celebrates the wonder of the natural world around us and encourages the protection of wildlife and habitat through the use of music, creative drama and movement. By exploring humanity's connection to the families of plants and animals while sharing ideas and choices, children can learn to become environmental caregivers while enhancing numerous curriculum goals such as cognition and identification, listening and verbalization, and motor skills.

Educational Impact:

- ✓ Vocabulary
 - ✓ Comprehension
 - ✓ Listening skills and verbalization
 - ✓ Gross and fine motor skills development
 - ✓ Following directions
 - ✓ Socialization
 - ✓ Environmental awareness, habitat identification, animal identification, and plant life identification
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Suggestions for use with the Songs for Singing and Learning CDs:

- ✓ "Everybody Needs a Place to Live"

Procedure and Process:

This experience allows children to recognize their relationships to all other species of animals that live on Earth, and emphasizes that everyone depends on the basic elements of life, such as air, water, and food.

Preparation

Some vocabulary should be clarified before singing this song. Define the word *habitat* for the children, explaining that it means the place we live and where we eat and sleep. Illustrate the words

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"eat" and "sleep" in American Sign Language*. You can also teach the children the signs for "everybody," "need," "live," "ocean," "river," "forest," "water," and "land." Meaningful gestures may be used in place of ASL for signs which may be too difficult or abstract, or for words for which there is no known ASL sign. The children can help create these gestures. Sing and sign the song, singing the chorus at the beginning, between each verse, and twice at the end.

While singing the song, before beginning each verse, use the ASL alphabet letters to do a call and response as described in the experience "Listen to Her Song," (O is for ocean). Follow that by saying, "Make an ocean," and add the ASL or meaningful gesture for each of the words you worked with in its turn.

After singing the verse line "The [ocean] is somebody's home, tell me who lives there," each time, use open-ended questioning and encourage the children to suggest an animal that dwells in that habitat. Then move in the space as that animal, coming back into a circle together at the end of the chorus. Use more suggestions from the children before moving on to the next chorus and verse.

Everybody Needs a Place to Live

Everybody needs a place to live

Everybody needs a place to live

A happy home to hang their hat

A hearty, healthy habitat

Everybody needs a place to live

The ocean is somebody's home, tell me who lives there...

The forest is somebody's home, tell me who lives there...

The river is somebody's home, tell me who lives there...

Follow-Up:

The song can be a jumping-off point for learning experiences in local or neighborhood habitats. Study the forest as a habitat by reading a story about animal homes. Take the children to a local park or nature center, fresh water creek, river or wetland to experience the life there. Discuss with the children whether the river or pond is clean or dirty. Talk with them about our responsibility to do our part to take care of the water and keep it clean. Take note of the animals you might see in these habitats, and then put them into the song.

**Two excellent resources for ASL are "video dictionaries" online. One is Michigan State University's ASL Browser. The URL is: <http://commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/aslweb/browser.htm>*

The other is from the University of Phoenix's Continuing Teacher Education Courses online. The URL is: <http://www.aslpro.com/cgi-bin/aslpro/aslpro.cgi>