

Eli and His Special Friend



About Choo Choo Train

Choo Choo Train is a series of stories and activities aiming to inculcate good values in five and six-year-old children. Children will learn eight values through 16 stories and activities. The stories will feature Eli the elephant and his friends as they learn about each value.

If you are a parent or an educator, there are guided questions at the end of the story that you may ask the children to build their empathy and perspective-taking skills.

Recommended activities are also included for a wholesome experience in learning these values!

About this story

In this story, we will explore the value of respect. Eli and his friends were playing ball together. Pat wanted to join in the fun. However, Bob did not want Pat to play with them because Pat is different. Will Bob let Pat play with them? Will Bob show respect? Read on to find out more.





It was a hot and sunny day. Eli, Felix and Bob were playing in the forest.

“Felix, catch!” Eli shouted as he threw the ball to Felix.

“Bob, it’s your turn! Catch!” Felix said as he passed the ball to Bob.

They were having a lot of fun playing together.



Pat, the parrot, flew past and heard Eli, Felix and Bob laughing.

“They look like they are having fun. I want to join them too.

Will they let me play with them?” Pat thought to himself.

Pat flew to where Eli, Felix and Bob were playing.



“Can I play with you, please?” asked Pat shyly.

“Of course, you can!” Eli and Felix replied excitedly.

Pat gave a wide smile and flapped his wings excitedly.



Suddenly Bob shouted, "No! He cannot play with us!"

"Why?" Eli and Felix asked.

"Because he is different from us," Bob replied.

Upon hearing this, Pat looked down and stopped flapping his wings.



“Bob, we are all different. I am an elephant, Felix is a fox and you are a bear. What do you mean he is different from us?” Eli asked, scratching his head.

“He is a parrot. He has only two legs. He flies. He is not like any of us, and he won’t be able to play a ball like us,” Bob said.



“How do you know he cannot play ball like us?” Felix asked.

“Because he has wings,” Bob replied as he threw the ball to Pat. “Catch!”

Pat could not catch the ball because his wings were small.

“See, I told you! He can’t play ball like us,” Bob said proudly.



“But... I am very good at playing hide and seek. Would... you like to play with me?” Pat asked softly.

“No, you cannot play with us because you are different. We do not play with others who are different from us!” Bob shouted.

Pat felt sad and started crying.



“Bob, you are not showing respect to him. Remember, respect means knowing everyone is important and caring for them?” Felix said.

“Pat may look different and may not be able to do some things, but he is important too. You need to care for him too,” Eli continued as he went to give Pat a hug.

“Pat is sad when you choose not to play with him just because he is different,” Eli added.

Bob looked at his friends, who were all hugging Pat.



“Eli and Felix, you are right.” Bob could feel his face turn red.

“I am sorry for not wanting to play with you earlier. Would you like to play with us?” Bob looked at Pat shyly and asked.

Pat liked the kind words that Bob was saying now. It made him feel important. Pat wiped his tears and broke into a smile.



“Yes, let’s play together,” Pat said with a smile.

“Hooray! We can play together!” Eli cheered.

“What did you say you were good at playing again?” Bob asked.



“Hide and seek. Since I can fly, I can see where everyone is hiding!” Pat replied happily.

“Okay, Eli, let’s go and hide before Bob and Pat find us,” Felix shouted as he ran to hide.

Pat was happy that he could play with Eli, Felix and Bob.

And Eli, Felix and Bob were happy that they now had a special friend – one who is different from them but just as important.

Bob was glad that he had learnt about respect that day.



Ask and Discuss

Here are some questions to further the discussion with your child. The suggested responses serve as a guide.

What value does this story teach?

This story teaches about Respect. Respect is knowing that everyone is important and caring for them.



What happened in the story?

Eli and his friends met Pat the parrot while having their ball game. Bob did not want to play with Pat because Pat was different from them. Pat had wings and two legs, unlike the rest. Pat also could not catch the ball with his small wings.

When did Bob not show respect? Why do you think Bob did not show respect?

When Bob did not want to play with Pat and told Pat "No! You cannot play with us!", Bob did not show respect because he thought that Pat was different and would not be able to play the ball game like them.



How would you feel if you were Pat and someone did not want to play with you because you are different?

I would feel sad or angry.

(Parents/educators can ask children why they would feel this way and what they would do when they feel this way to encourage children to think about their responses to such feelings.)



Why should Bob show respect?

Bob should show respect so that he would not hurt Pat's feelings and Pat would have friends to play with.

What would happen if Bob continued to not show respect?

He would hurt Pat's feelings and Pat would not have friends to play with.



Activity: What can we say?

In this activity, children will learn what to say during turn-taking through role-play.

Parent/educator/caregiver to role-play as Pat by moving arms up and down.

Child to role-play as Bob by clenching fists to look like paws. Let child know that they are going to pretend to be Bob and learn how to show respect while playing with friends who may be different.

Discuss with the child how one can be respectful and thoughtful to those who may be different.

Context: Bob is playing with his friends and Pat is looking at them by the side.

Role-play according to the lines below (to invite someone else to play):

Pat: Hello!

Bob: Hello! My name is Bob (introduction of name). What is your name?

Pat: My name is Pat.

Bob: Do you want to play with me? / Do you want to play together?
(invitation to play together)

Pat: Yes, I want to play with you. Thank you for asking me to play with you.

Role-play according to the lines below (to respond to someone's invitation to play):

Pat: Hello! May I play with you?

Bob: Hello! Yes, you can play with me. My name is Bob.
What is your name?

Pat: My name is Pat. Thank you for letting me play with you.

Adult and child can take turns to play the roles of Bob and Pat. Adult can explore and discuss different ways to invite others to play or to accept the invitation to play.



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