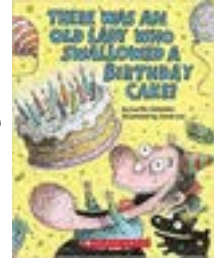


There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Birthday Cake



A Parent's Guide to Using an Experience Box

Experience boxes provide a way for children with limited formal communication skills to share in the experience of literacy while developing vocabulary and concepts. Using real objects or object symbols, children with emerging communication skills can explore, match, and share these objects as they refer to the story with others. Experience boxes can be used with children of all ages and abilities.

Recommended Lesson Plan

- Allow your child to first explore the items in the box, let them become familiar with the shapes and textures of the items. Familiarity is important for learning.
- Select [There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Birthday Cake](http://www.dbcentral.org) on www.dbcentral.org – or choose to read the enclosed book with your child on your own.
- Utilize objects in the experience box to have a conversation about the pictures and the words in the book. Allow your child to handle the object, play with it, learn and come to understand the shapes and textures of the objects. If available, provide a real life example of the item. For example, if you have any of the items from the story, like a wax candle, a long list of items, a balloon, or a party hat, see if you can explore it in some way with your child. Remember that touching the object together is a simple conversation.
- As you watch the “Story Time Video”, or read the book together, pull objects from the experience box as they are presented in the story. Allow your child to try to find objects that match the pictures and identify them by practicing the vocabulary. Mutually explore the candle, the balloon and if possible, talk, have a conversation about the objects and the story. Play with old lady puppet and have her swallow some of the objects. Put all of the candles in the cake.
- Conversation starters
 - Did you like the story?
 - What did you like about the story?
 - What is your favorite object?
 - Do you want to read the story again?
- After the video is finished, continue to talk and interact with the objects. Communicate with your child about the objects throughout your day.
 - For example: Was it funny that she ate all of those things? What would you like to eat? What is your favorite food? Would you eat a balloon? A cake? A cake *with candles on it?*

NOTE: The objects in these particular boxes are all SYMBOLS for real items. If you can collect and provide the real items, your child will be more likely to understand the object representations and the concepts and vocabulary included in this story. For example, make a real birthday cake with candles and decorate for a party.

A Parent's Guide to Accessing Story Time Videos and Vocabulary

- Log on to www.dbcentral.org
- On the right side, click on the "Story Time" tab
- Scroll down until you find the book that you have borrowed.
- Click on the video thumbnail to access the story in ASL and spoken English or practice the vocabulary using the tools provided under "Vocabulary Development."

A Note on the ASL Vocabulary Video

The vocabulary is presented by a native signer in a pure form of American Sign Language (ASL). Sometimes, two or more signs are required to capture the concept behind the English word. If you need clarification on any of the signs, please contact DB Central for assistance at dbcen@cmich.edu.

DB Central Can Help

Project staff are able to schedule a virtual meeting to help brainstorm how to use the experience box with your child and/or to teach them new vocabulary and concepts. Signs can be learned using vision and/or touch.

When You Are Finished with this Experience Box

Please collect all of the listed items (see back of plastic lid or tag on the bag) and place them back into the provided container. Contact DB Central at dbcen@cmich.edu for mail pickup at your front door.