



Teaching Notes & Resources

Early Years

Themes: Family | Starting school | Growing Up | Empathy

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CAPTION WRITING

THE
GECKO
AND THE ECHO

What is
happening
in this part
of the story?

Write a caption.



What do you think the other geckos are thinking?



STORY SEQUENCING

Can you order the main events of the story?



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STORY SEQUENCING

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Communication, Language and Literacy

Comprehension

Who are the main characters in the story?

Where do you think the story is set? What clues can we find for this in the story?

How does Goldy behave at the start of the story?

How do the others feel about Goldy?

What makes Goldy leave?

Who is the echo that Goldy hears?

Why does Goldy change? What does he do differently?

Discussion Questions

What does it mean to be selfish?

Why is it important to think about others?

What can we do to show that we are thinking about other people?

Caption Writing

What is happening in this part of the story?

Write a caption.



Story Sequencing

Can the children order the main events of the story?

Can they retell the story in their own words?



Speech and Thought Bubbles

What do you think the other geckos are thinking?



Personal Social and Emotional Development

We Get What We Give

Goldy loved to be loud, he thought everyone should see and hear his greatness, but he lost sight of the world around him, and the people in it. By the end of the story, he had learned that we get what we give.

In this activity, the children will think about and draw something that Goldy did at the start of the story that made people cross. How did he change what he did at the end of the story?

E.g. Keeping the babies awake with his singing.
Now singing the babies to sleep with a lullaby.

Can the children think of something kind that they can do for someone else? Can they draw their idea onto the leaf? **Remember, we get what we give. So, giving out love is a great way to live.**



Phonics

Musical Instruments

Use instruments with the children to make LOUD and quiet sounds to accompany different moments as you read the book. Then think about different instruments you could use to represent how Goldy is feeling and how the others are feeling.

'ck' sound

For children working at Phase 2, this is a useful book to focus on the phoneme /ck/. Can children spot /ck/ in the book title *The Gecko and the Echo*? Can they read the following words: chick, pack, sock, peck, lick, flick, sack.

The Rainforest Floor

Print out multiples of Goldy the gecko and write phase 1-5 tricky words on the body. Fill the tray with lots of different leaves and soil. Bury the geckos under the leaves and soil. Can the children dig through the rainforest floor to find the tricky words written on geckos? How many tricky words can they read?

Rhyming words

Identify rhyming words in the story and find rhyming pairs e.g. star/far; shut/butt; mango/tango; moon/soon; dance/chance; top/stop; chirp/burp; me/see; fact/act; tail/trail; out/shout; shout/out; hooo/two. What other words can the children think of that rhyme?



Expressive Arts and Design

Gecko Masks

Can the children use paint and other materials to create Goldy masks? What colours can they spot on Goldy? Do some geckos have more colours than Goldy?

Geckos on Tour

Using their gecko costumes or masks, invite the children to go on a march through the 'rainforest' (outdoor area). Provide the children with musical instruments for them to play a beat as they march.

A Gecko Lullaby

Provide the children with a wide range of instruments. Which instrument would they choose to help Goldy hush the baby geckos to sleep? Should we play the instrument loudly or quietly? Fast or slow? Can they sing a lullaby as they play the instrument, to send the baby geckos to sleep? Choose an instrument to wake the baby geckos up!



Understanding the World

Where does Goldy Live?

Where do we think Goldy might live? Can the children locate a rainforest on the map?

What continent is it on? What do we think the climate is like there?

Goldy lives in Hawaii. Can we find Hawaii on the map? What do we think it is like to live there?

Who lives with Goldy?

What other animals and insects do we notice in the story? Do you know any other animals that live in the rainforest? Can the children create an animal spotter sheet for animals of the rainforest?

Rainforest Colours

Goldy is very bright in colour. What colours can you see on Goldy's skin? Let's look at photos of some rainforest animals and insects. What colours are they? What patterns do they have? Investigate how animals use colour to stay safe in the rainforest.



Continuous Provision

Hawaiian Lei threading

Can the children create their own Hawaiian Lei (flower garland) by threading the flowers onto the string? This simple activity is great for fine motor control and introduces the children to an important part of dress culture in Hawaii.

Rainforest Small World

Provide the children with a rainforest photo backdrop and rainforest animal toys. Can the children retell the story? Can the children show Goldy the gecko doing kind things for the other animals in the rainforest? Listen for story language repeated by the children.

Gecko Non-Fiction book

Provide the children with African animal masks. Encourage them to interact with each other. Are they able to take on the role of that animal? Do they repeat any story language?



WE GET WHAT WE GIVE

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Now, draw how he changed this into something kind.



We get what
we give!



Draw something kind that you can do for someone else.



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