



AddyPres Resources for Families with Christopher Corr

Activity #1: Deep in the Woods

This enriching activity is a free offering from the AddyPres Foundation & author Christopher Corr, in hope that it will bring sunshine into your family's life during the challenge of the global Covid-19 crisis and beyond. This experience offers a **Social Emotional Learning** opportunity to build your TK-5th grade child's social awareness & relationship skills. Please visit www.addypres.org to learn more about the **AP GIVE Program** for schools, supporting evidence-based programs, training & resources that grow tomorrow's global citizens.

For Families

This lesson is scripted, so you can easily facilitate as a *homeschool* experience with great value or a meaningful family experience. We suggest reading through the following directive completely, then use activity directives #1 & #2, printable activity sheets & video tool (found on the AP Family Resources Page) to plan your fun family art, reading & discussion experiences to learn, grow and connect!

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this enriching lesson and activity is to help children build *social awareness, relationship skills and self management skills*.

As offered by CASEL (the Collaborative for Academic Social Emotional Learning), **Self Management** allows us to establish and work toward short and long term goals, and handle emotions so that they facilitate rather than interfere with the task at hand. **Social Awareness** *helps us identify & understand the thoughts and feelings of others, respect their rights and appreciate diversity*. **Relationship Skills** *help us establish and maintain healthy and rewarding connections with individuals and groups through communication, listening and negotiation skills*.

Time allotment & Age Recommendations

Age: 1st-5th grade about 30-60 mins to complete book read (or video), discussion & activity

Supplies Needed

- VIDEO ACCESS: AP Video Book Read of *Deep in the Woods* by, Christopher Corr (Found on the Free Family Resources Page. *Members can continue to access this page from the MY ACCOUNT header link, after signing in.)
- OR, if you own the book, *Deep in the Woods* by, Christopher Corr
- DOWNLOAD & PRINT: *Corr Goals Activity Sheet* for each child. Print on (Available on the AP Family Resources Page within Christopher Corr page section.)
- Blank sheet of paper for each child.
- Pen, pencil and/or colored pencils (for

Scripted Experience

1. Warmly invite your children to have an art and reading experience within a setting that has video capability and a table or hard surface. Introduce the book or have the video ready on a screen. Let your children know that after you experience Christopher Corr's book, you'll have a discussion and do a fun activity together.
2. Discuss & Define the experience you & your child(ren) will experience through the book's characters, using the following script:

Script:

While [I read the story] OR [we watch the video], Deep in the Woods, I'd like you to think about the meaning of some words and how they apply to the story...

[DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS:]

Social Awareness: is when we can understand and act based on the needs of others, creating a good outcome for everyone. Social awareness helps us understand how to react to different situations with lots of different people and make responsible decisions.

Empathy: is when you can share someone else's feelings, because you understand how it would feel to be in their situation.

Community: is a group of people who live and work in the same places.

Respect: is when we feel admiration for someone or something because they have good qualities or when we act in a way that shows an understanding of someone's or something's rights, wishes, or qualities.

Let's read the story *Deep in the Woods* by, Christopher Corr

3. **READ:** Christopher Corr, *Deep in the Woods* **OR WATCH:** AP Video found on AP Family Resources Page.
4. **Discuss and Reflect:** Adapt discussion points based on your family values and age of children utilizing the following script:
 - a. Remember the mouse from the beginning of the story? How did the mouse show *respect* for the little wooden house? [he swept the floors, washed the windows and mopped, wiped and scoured until everything was squeaky clean.]
 - b. How do you and others in our family show respect for our home?
 - c. Were all the animals in the story the same? [no. there are all different types of animals with diverse qualities.] Do these different qualities seem to sway the animals from wanting to become friends? [no, they celebrate and enjoy all the different qualities of one another.]
 - d. When the bear comes upon the house and sees all the other animals, how does he feel? [Excited then frustrated and left out because he is too big to join in.] How do we know this? [we see him ask to join then try to force his way into the house.]
 - e. Did the other animals welcome the bear into their house when he first arrived? Did the bear feel "part of the group"? Did the Bear's aggressive approach of forcing his way in turn out well? [Offer your child(ren) ways they could more effectively approach others in friendship through better communication and planning]
 - f. Discuss what was different about the bear than all the other animals.
 - g. Have you ever been in a situation that you felt left out? How did you assert your wish to be included? [offer solutions. Ex. seek an adult to help you, pause and think about ways to communicate to others respectfully.]
 - h. At first, the bear's big size was a problem, wasn't it? How did the bear's *different* size end up contributing to a *better solution* at the end of the

story? How did the characters all work together? [Use this opportunity to discuss the value of our communities and the great qualities that can be found in our differences that ultimately contribute to happier friendships and better lives.]

- i. Point out to your child that, in life, things don't always go the way we think is the best way, but having an optimistic perspective helps us see that there are other ways of doing things that can have good outcomes as well.
- j. What did the characters do to show appreciation for everyone's hard work, how did they celebrate together? [they sang and danced together.]
- k. After reading this story, do you think it's important to have friends who are all different? (Yes! Having friends who have many different qualities help us solve the most unexpected challenges!)

5. Introduce Activity

Provide each child with the Corr Goals activity sheet, blank sheet of paper & pen/pencil/colored pencils.

Step One: Discussion with script:

In the story, Deep in the Woods, we got to see a lot of different animals working together to create and build a home they loved and respected. This is similar to what we do as a family. Our home is a safe place where we know we can always be ourselves, we can grow, explore & share our talents and we can celebrate important things together, this makes our home a special place for all of us!

Let's look at our activity sheet together. We're going to use our experience with the story, Deep In the Woods, to write about our family's dream house! Instead of the dream of a mansion in Malibu, let's think about the PERSONAL QUALITIES & EXPERIENCES that make our house a dream, and what qualities or experiences we could improve to make our home an even better place.

Step Two: As you discuss, have children use their blank sheet of paper & pen/pencil/colored pencils to write and/or draw some unique qualities about each family member that contributes to making your home a *dream*, and the qualities that your children feel could use a change to improve your home.

Step Three: Now have your children think about an experience that your family can do together to reach a long-term goal. Use the **CORR GOALS activity sheet** to define this long-term goal, the (daily/weekly/monthly) steps to achieve it, and what it will mean to your family.

For Example: Learn more about the importance of regenerative organic food by viewing the videos within the [AP Nutrition Toolbox](#), then creating an organic garden plan for your backyard! Start a family journal for the project to write about some of the positive impacts your family wants to make for the planet and your health by creating your garden, who & how you will maintain the garden and recipes for meals your new garden will provide for your family's *dream house* experience!

6. Re-visit the AP Family Resources Page

Plan your your next family connect opportunity by downloading the Christopher Corr *Deep in the Woods* Activity #2 Art Project directive.

Thank you for participating with AP! Please find more resources for families by visiting the [APYS Activation Pages](#) and please consider onboarding the [AP GIVE PROGRAM](#) for your child's school!