

Brinton & Fujiki
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Social Communication Intervention Script for story book, *Llama Llama Home with Mama*

***Llama Llama Home with Mama* by Anna Dewdney, 2011, Viking, Penguin Group, New York.**

Sharing a Story to Facilitate Social and Emotional Learning

Many children with disabilities such as developmental language disorders, language-learning disorders, social communication disorders, or autism spectrum disorders have difficulty with aspects of social and emotional learning. These children often need explicit, repeated instruction designed to facilitate emotion understanding, conversational ability, and language comprehension and production skill. The following informal script is designed to help interventionists (caregivers and professionals) focus on and emphasize important concepts.

The following storybook has been selected because it has a well-defined story structure, clear language, rich emotion content, and engaging illustrations. A script is provided to guide interventionists as they share this book. Initially, concepts are listed that this book is particularly well suited to teach. These include social and emotional knowledge, interactional skills, vocabulary, and language structure.

Following the list of concepts, a series of prompts is provided for each story page. These prompts include questions, comments, and brief activities (e.g., making a facial expression in a mirror) designed to teach specific concepts. The interventionist may read the story text for each page and then present any of the prompts they feel would be most appropriate. The script is designed to be flexible and adjusted to each child's needs.

At the conclusion of the story script, a series of questions is provided to probe how well children understand and identify emotions that story characters experience. If desired, these questions can be used to evaluate how well children grasp the emotion content of the story.

Following story sharing, the interventionist may guide children to enact the story using simple props. This activity facilitates story comprehension by assisting children to understand the internal states and motivations of characters. Older children may prefer a readers' theater format or choose to provide additional text or dialog to the storybook by using attachable note paper.

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Concepts to stress

1. **Emotions experienced:** happy, worried/scared, gross/yucky/disgusted/disgusting, bored
2. **Reflecting on how one feels (ill)**
3. **Disgust/yucky/gross—(all the sneezing and runny nose)**
4. **Empathy—Mama feels like the baby did—baby learns to think about how Mama feels**
5. **Boredom—tired**
6. **Prosocial behavior: thinking about how someone else feels—accommodating to their needs.**
7. **Structural: complete simple sentence forms, complex sentences with causal connections (but, if, so, because)**

We are going to read another story about Llama Llama. In this story, Llama is home with Mama. But Llama does not feel well. Llama feels sick. Let's see how Llama and his Mama feel in this story.

Page 1 (Title Page)

(Look at picture.)

I wonder what this book is about?

What do you think? (Let child look at the picture.)

Now let's look at it together.

Page 2-3

Read: "Llama Llama, morning light..."

Here is Llama Llama just waking up.

Look at Llama Llama's face. How does he feel? (Point out the tongue sticking out—yucky/gross/disgusting.)

Llama Llama is sticking his tongue out because he feels yucky. Have you ever felt like that?

Show me how your face looked. (Use mirror.)

Look at Llama Llama's eyes. How do you think he feels? (Talk about the fact that he seems surprised that he feels weird or sick.)

Look at Mama Llama.

How does she feel? (Surprise—bad surprise—she can see baby might be sick.)

Page 4-5

Read: "Down to breakfast..."

What is Llama Llama doing (p. 4)? (Sneezing.) Why is he sneezing? (He is sneezing because he has a cold.)

What does Mama do?

Mama gives Llama Llama a tissue because he is sneezing.

How does Llama Llama feel? (He feels sick, but he also looks a little surprised or scared. Speculate why he might feel that way.)

How does Mama feel?

Mama looks worried/scared because Little Llama Llama might be sick.

What is Mama thinking? (Try to elicit something like, "I am worried/scared because Llama Llama is sick.")

Page 6-7

Read: "Llama's head is feeling hot..."

How does Llama Llama feel? (Talk about symptoms and how they make Llama Llama feel.)

What is Mama doing? How does she feel?

Mama feels sad because Llama Llama is sick. Mama is probably worried because Little Llama Llama is sick.

If you were there, what would you say to Llama Llama? (“Go to bed Llama Llama because you are sick.”)

Why does Llama Llama go back to bed? (He goes back to bed because he feels sick.)

Page 8-9

Read: “Time to rest...”

What is Llama Llama doing?

Mama says Llama Llama cannot go to school today? Why not? What would happen if Llama Llama went to school? (He would feel sick, he might not feel like working, others could get sick, etc.)

What does Mama bring Llama Llama? Why? (Mama brings Llama medicine to make him feel better.)

Look at Llama Llama’s face (p. 9). How does he feel? (Disgusted.)

How does the medicine taste? (Yucky.)

Llama Llama thinks the medicine is disgusting! He feels disgusted.

(Introduce and define disgusted/yucky/gross. Talk about some things that are disgusting.)

Have you ever felt yucky or disgusted?

Show me a disgusted face. (Use mirror.)

Page 10-11

Read: “Look around...”

Llama Llama wants to do something.

What can Llama Llama do? (Play with trucks.)

Is Llama Llama happy? Is he having fun? Why not? (Talk about feeling bored. Talk about the fact that Llama probably feels tired because he is sick.)

Llama Llama is not having fun because he is sick.

Look at Llama Llama's face (p. 11)—how does he feel? (Yucky, disgusted, gross.)

Llama Llama feels yucky and tired because he is sick.

Have you ever felt sick? (Talk about it.)

Page 12-13

Read: "Mama Llama gets a book..."

What does Mama Llama do?

Why? (Mama reads to Llama Llama to make him feel better.) Look at Llama Llama's face? How does he feel when Mama reads to him? (Llama Llama feels better when Mama Llama reads to him.)

Now how does Llama Llama feel (p.13)? (Sleepy. Define doze if necessary.)

Page 14-15

Read: "Up again..."

Llama Llama is up now. Where is he? (Back downstairs or in the kitchen.)

How does he feel?

Llama feels well enough to draw and write.

But what is Mama doing?

Page 16-17

Read: "Llama wants a sandwich..."

Whoa. Look what is happening now!

How does Llama Llama feel? (Better.)

But look at Mama Llama (p. 17), how does she feel? (Talk about the fact that she seems to be in pain—her head hurts.)

Llama Llama feels like playing, but Mama does not feel well now.

How can we tell that? (Discuss symptoms she is showing.)

Page 18-19

Read: “Mama makes a big ah-choo...”

Now how does Llama Llama feel? (Llama Llama is bored because he doesn’t have fun things to do.)

What is going on with Mama? (Discuss her symptoms.)

How does Little Llama Llama feel? (Bored.)

Page 20-21

Read: “Mama coughs...”

Look at poor Mama Llama—how does she feel?

(Define words as needed—shnortle, hack, wheeze.)

But what about Llama Llama? (Talk about the fact that Llama Llama is just thinking about how he feels—he feels bored.)

Look at Llama Llama here (p. 21). How does he feel? (He looks surprised because Mama is coughing.)

Page 22-23

Read: “Soggy tissues...”

Look at Mama.

How does she feel? (Talk about symptoms. Stress disgusting, gross, yucky. Talk about how colds make you feel yucky.)

Look at Mama’s face (p. 23)—stuff coming out of her nose—that is disgusting.

Poor Mama feels so yucky!

Talk about the fact that Mama feels the way Llama Llama felt early in the morning. (Turn back the page if needed.)

Page 24-25

Read: “Llama Llama, red pajama...”

Look at Mama. How does she feel? She feels gross, yucky, and disgusted.

Look at Llama Llama—how does he feel? (He is not as sick now, but he is bored.)

Page 26-27

Read: “Wait!...”

Wow! Look at Llama Llama now? Look at his face? It has changed! How does he feel?

He is happy and excited because he has a good idea.

Llama Llama thinks that Mama needs a rest.

What do you think? If you were there, what would you say to Mama Llama?

Look at Mama’s face. How does she feel? (Talk about the fact that she looks surprised because Llama Llama has a new idea.)

(Contrast Mama’s surprised face with her disgusted/yucky face [look back in the book] with Llama Llama’s happy/excited face. Have the child make the faces in the mirror.)

Page 28-29

Read: “Get more tissues...”

What does Llama Llama do? (Talk about each step and why Llama Llama tries to do this—good opportunity for complex constructions, “Llama Llama gets some tissues so Mama can blow her nose.”)

(Talk about Llama Llama’s motivation here—trying to help Mama feel better. “Llama is fluffing the pillow to make Mama feel better.” Talk about how Llama

Llama feels as he starts to help. “Llama Llama is happy because he can help Mama feel better.”)

Page 30-31

Read: “Just the thing...”

How do you think that Llama Llama feels now?

How does Mama feel?

Are they all better (well) now? No, they are still a little sick, aren't they? (Look at the red noses.)

They are still sick but they feel happier.

Page 32

Read: “but with his mama.”

How does Llama Llama feel?

How does Mama feel? (Note closed eyes, they are going to sleep.)

They are sick, but they feel happier now.

How do you think they will feel tomorrow?

Have you ever felt sick? What did you do?

Summary:

(Use cloze procedures so child can help summarize.)

Llama Llama was sick in this story. Llama Llama had a bad cold. Have you ever had a really bad cold? Llama Llama felt sick and tired and bored and sad and yucky/disgusted. Llama Llama's mama was very worried about Llama Llama. She tried to make Llama Llama feel better. She did lots of kind things for Llama Llama. Then Llama Llama started to feel better. Llama Llama was so happy because he felt better. But then Mama was sick. Mama felt yucky. Llama Llama knew just how Mama felt. Llama Llama wanted to help Mama feel better.

Follow-up probes

Probe #1, p. 11, Look at Llama Llama. How does he feel?

Why does he feel_____?

Ask both questions first, but if the emotion response is wrong, say:

OR, he might feel yucky/disgusted. Llama Llama feels yucky because he has a cold.

Probe #2, p. 12, Look at Llama Llama. How does he feel?

Why does he feel_____?

Ask both questions first, but if the emotion response is wrong, say:

OR, he might feel happy. Llama Llama is happy because he is reading with his mama.

Probe #3, p. 21, Look at Mama Llama. How does she feel?

Why does she feel_____?

Ask both questions first, but if the emotion response is wrong, say:

OR, she might feel yucky/disgusted. Mama feels yucky and disgusted because she is sick.

Probe # 4, p. 24, Look at Llama Llama. How does he feel?

Why does he feel_____?

Ask both questions, but if the emotion response is wrong, say:

OR, he might feel bored. Llama Llama is bored because he has nothing to do.

Probe #5, p. 27 Look at Mama Llama. How does she feel?

Why does she feel_____?

Ask both questions first, but if the emotion response is wrong, say:

OR, she might feel surprised. Mama feels surprised because Llama Llama has a new idea.

Probe #6 p. 31, Look at Llama Llama. How does he feel?

Why does he feel_____?

Ask both questions first, but if the emotion response is wrong, say:

OR, he might feel happy. Llama is happy because he is with his mama.

Dialog/enactment activity:

Help the child enact the story using simple props. Or, guide the child in a modified “readers’ theater” where the child voices one or more characters. Adjust as needed for the individual child.