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Social Communication Intervention Script for story book, *Llama Llama Time to Share*

***Llama Llama Time to Share* by Anna Dewdney, 2012, Viking, 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: shy, happy, sad, mad, jealous, anxious/worried, afraid, sorry/guilty
2. Reflecting on how one feels when meeting a new person.
3. Emotions experienced when something negative happens.
4. What constitutes sharing and cooperative play?
5. Understanding intentional and unintentional behavior (Whose fault?)
6. Understanding what others are feeling—accommodating the feelings of others.
7. Prosocial behavior: Playing cooperatively with others demands some sharing and give and take
8. Prosocial behavior: Playing collaboratively with others is fun. It is fun to cooperate, compromise and share.
9. Structural: complete simple sentence forms, complex sentences with causal connections (but, if, so, because)

Choose among the following prompts to highlight the concepts above. Gear prompts to child's interest and attention.

INTRO: We are going to read a book about Llama Llama. In this book, Nelly Gnu comes to visit Llama Llama. Llama Llama needs to share his toys with Nelly Gnu. And there is a problem! Think about how Llama Llama feels. Think about how Nelly feels. Let's see what Llama Llama and Nelly do to solve the problem.

Title Page 1

(Look at picture on cover.)

Here is Little Llama.

What do you think will happen in this book?

Now let's look at it together.

I think that Little Llama is going to have a friend visit his house.

Page 2-3

Read: "Llama Llama playing trains..."

What is happening here?

Look at Llama Llama. How does he feel? (He feels surprised to see a new girl at his house.)

Look at this little girl (point to Nelly). How does she feel? (She feels shy or a little scared because she is going to a new place.)

Look at Nelly. Can you make a shy face? (Use mirror.)

Have you ever felt shy? Tell me about it.

Page 4-5

Read: "Llama, this is Nelly Gnu..."

What is happening here? (A new girl comes to visit Llama llama.)

What is the new girl's name? (Nelly Gnu)

Look at Llama's face. How does he feel?

Look at Nelly's face. How does she feel?

(Llama looks a little surprised or nervous/anxious to meet Nelly. Nelly looks a little surprised too.)

How does it feel when you meet someone brand new? (Talk about the fact you might have mixed feelings—happy and maybe a little worried/scared/shy.)

If you were there, what would you say to Llama Llama? (Try to elicit a complex construction such as "Don't worry. You will like Nelly *because* she is nice.")

Page 6-7

Read; “Mrs. Gnu, would you like tea?...”

What does Mama Llama tell Little Llama? (Mama tells Llama to share.)

Look at Nelly. How does she feel? (Nelly feels happy to play with Llama.)

How does Llama Llama feel? (Llama Llama looks a little worried/nervous/scared.)

Why do you think Llama Llama feels a little worried? (Llama Llama is worried because he does not know Nelly/because he might not want to share/because he thinks this might not be fun, etc.)

(Talk about feeling a little nervous/scared to play with a new friend.)

Can you make a worried face like Llama Llama’s? (Use mirror.)

Page 8-9

Read: “Trains and trucks and puzzles...”

What is Nelly doing here? (p. 9) (Nelly is playing with Llama’s toys)

How does Nelly feel? (Nelly is happy because she is playing with Llama’s toys.)

Oh, look, how does Llama Llama feel? (Llama Llama looks a little sad or mad.)

Why is Llama Llama sad/mad? (Maybe Llama is sad/mad because he does not want Nelly to play with his toys.)

Do you think Llama might feel a little mad because Nelly is playing with his toys?

Maybe Llama Llama is a little mad because he does NOT want to share his toys.

Can you make a face like Nelly’s? Can you make a face like Llama Llama’s? (Use mirror and help child see the contrast)

Have you ever felt like Llama Llama feels? (Give a personal example)

If you were there, what would you say to Llama Llama?

Page 10-11

Read: “Nelly stacks the blocks up high...”

Nelly is having fun, isn’t she? Nelly is having fun because she is playing with the toys.

Look at Llama Llama. What does he want to do? (Llama Llama wants to play with Nelly because it's fun.) do you think Llama is feeling better? (see 2nd picture on p. 9)

Is Llama LLama sharing his toys? How does he feel about that? (He is happy because he is playing with Nelly.)

Page 12-13

Read: "Little baby Gnu makes noise..."

Look at baby Gnu. How does he feel? (Mad?)

What does Mrs. Gnu do to help baby Gnu feel better? (She gets him toys and then a snack.

But look at Llama Llama (p. 13). How does he feel? (Llama feels surprised/worried to see what Nelly is doing.)

What do you think Nelly is doing?

Page 14-15

Read: "Oh disaster! Dolly drama..."

What is Nelly playing with? (Fuzzy Llama)

How does Llama Llama feel about that? (He is mad and jealous because Nelly is playing with his fuzzy llama.) (Define jealous—e.g., when someone else has something you want and you want to have it instead.)

Why is Llama Llama so mad and jealous? (He feels mad and jealous because Nelly is playing with his favorite toy)

Have you ever felt like this?

If you were there, what would you say to Llama Llama?

Page 16-17

Read: Llama doesn't like to share!"

Wow! Look at Llama Llama and Nelly here.

Look at Llama Llama. How does Llama feel? (He feels mad and jealous because Nelly is playing with Fuzzy Llama.)

How does Nelly feel? (Nelly is surprised because Llama Llama is so upset--Talk about the fact that it is a bad surprise or shock.)

Can you make a mad/jealous face like Llama's? (Use mirror.). Can you make a shocked/surprised face like Nelly's? (Use mirror and highlight the contrast between mad and shocked.)

What do you think will happen here?

If you were there, what would you say to Llama Llama and Nelly?

Page 18-19

Look at the pictures

Whoa! How does Llama Llama feel? (He is shocked [bad surprise] and maybe scared because his fuzzy llama is ripped/torn)

How does Nelly feel? (Nelly looks shocked/bad surprised that Fuzzy Llama ripped.)

Can you make a face like Llama's? Like Nelly's? (use mirror)

What do you think will happen?

Page 20-21

Read: "Fuzzy Llama ripped in two..."

Wow! Look at Nelly and Llama Llama here. (p. 20)

How does Llama Llama feel? (He feels mad and upset because Fuzzy Llama is ripped. He thinks that it is all Nelly's fault. Discuss whether it is really all Nelly's fault.)

How does Nelly feel? (Nelly is upset because the Fuzzy Llama is ripped. Maybe she thinks that she will be in trouble.)

Look at Mama Llama and Mrs. Gnu. How do they feel? (They are surprised/puzzled because the kids are so upset.)

Pretend you are Mama Llama. What would you say to Little Llama? (try to elicit complex constructions such as "Fuzzy ripped because you both pulled on him.")

Pretend you are Nelly's mama. What would you say to Nelly?

Page 22-23

Read: "A bit of thread..."

What is happening here?

How does Mama Gnu feel? How about Mama Llama? How about Llama Llama? How about Nelly? (Compare faces—they all look worried and shocked [bad surprise])

How do you think Llama Llama will feel when Mama fixes his Fuzzy Llama? (He will be happy and relieved when Mama fixes Fuzzy.)

Page 24-25

Read: "I'll put Fuzzy..."

What is happening here? (p. 23)

Mama will put Fuzzy Llama on the stair because Llama Llama did not share.

If you were Mama Llama, what would you say to Llama Llama and Nelly?

Look at Llama Llama and Nelly. How do they feel? (They feel sorry/guilty because they fought over Fuzzy Llama. Define guilty—when you feel bad inside because you did something wrong.)

Page 26-27

Read: "Maybe tractors...?"

What is happening now?

Llama Llama and Nelly are trying to find something that they both would like to do. They are trying to cooperate.

Does it look like they are having fun together?

P. 28-29

Read: "Look—our fancy cake is done..."

What is happening now?

How does Llama Llama feel?

How does Nelly feel?

They feel happy because they are cooperating and playing together.

What does Llama Llama want to do (p. 29)? (Llama wants to share Fuzzy Llama with Nelly.) Look at Nelly's face. How does she feel? Can you make a happy face like Nelly's? (Use mirror.)

P. 30-31

Read. "Playtime's over..."

Look, Nelly and Llama Llama are cooperating. They are both feeding their dolls.

Llama Llama and Nelly are friends now.

P. 32

Read: "Nelly will be back..."

Look at Llama Llama and Nelly. How do they feel? (They feel happy because they had fun playing together.)

What do you think will happen the next time that Llama Llama and Nelly play together?

Summary: Think about happened in this book. How did Llama Llama feel when Nelly came to his house? (He felt shy and nervous at first.) It was hard for Llama Llama to share his toys, wasn't it? Llama Llama felt mad and jealous when Nelly played with his Fuzzy Llama. Nelly and Llama Llama accidentally ripped Fuzzy Llama. But then Llama Llama and Nelly learned to cooperate and share with each other. Friends cooperate with each other. It is fun when kids cooperate to play together.

Has something like this ever happened to you?

Follow-up probes

Probe 1, p. 4 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 surprised/worried. Llama is surprised because there is a new girl at his house

Probe 2, p. 8, Look at Nelly. How does she feel?

Why does she feel _____?

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

OR, she might feel happy to play with Llama Llama.

Probe 3, p. 16, 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 mad. Llama Llama is mad because Nelly is playing with Fuzzy.

Probe # 4, p. 18, 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 surprised/shocked. Llama Llama is surprised/shocked because his toy ripped.

Probe #5, p. 25 Look at Nelly. How does she feel?

Why does she feel _____?

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

OR, she might feel sorry/guilty. Nelly is sorry/guilty because the toy ripped.

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 happy. He might feel happy because he has a new friend.

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.