Includes Activity Listen **Guide for Adults!** Learning Along® and Learn Cheri J. Meiners, M.Ed. free spirit PUBLISHING[®]

"Children and adults will love these gentle, empowering books. The Learning to Get Along series is a powerful tool for teaching children essential social skills such as empathy, respect, cooperation, and kindness. This straightforward and insightful series helps children visualize how their appropriate behavior positively impacts themselves and others. I heartily recommend this as a solid, classic resource for teaching affective skills to young children."

-Dr. Stephen R. Covey, Author, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People



Listen and Learn

Cheri J. Meiners, M.Ed. Illustrated by Meredith Johnson



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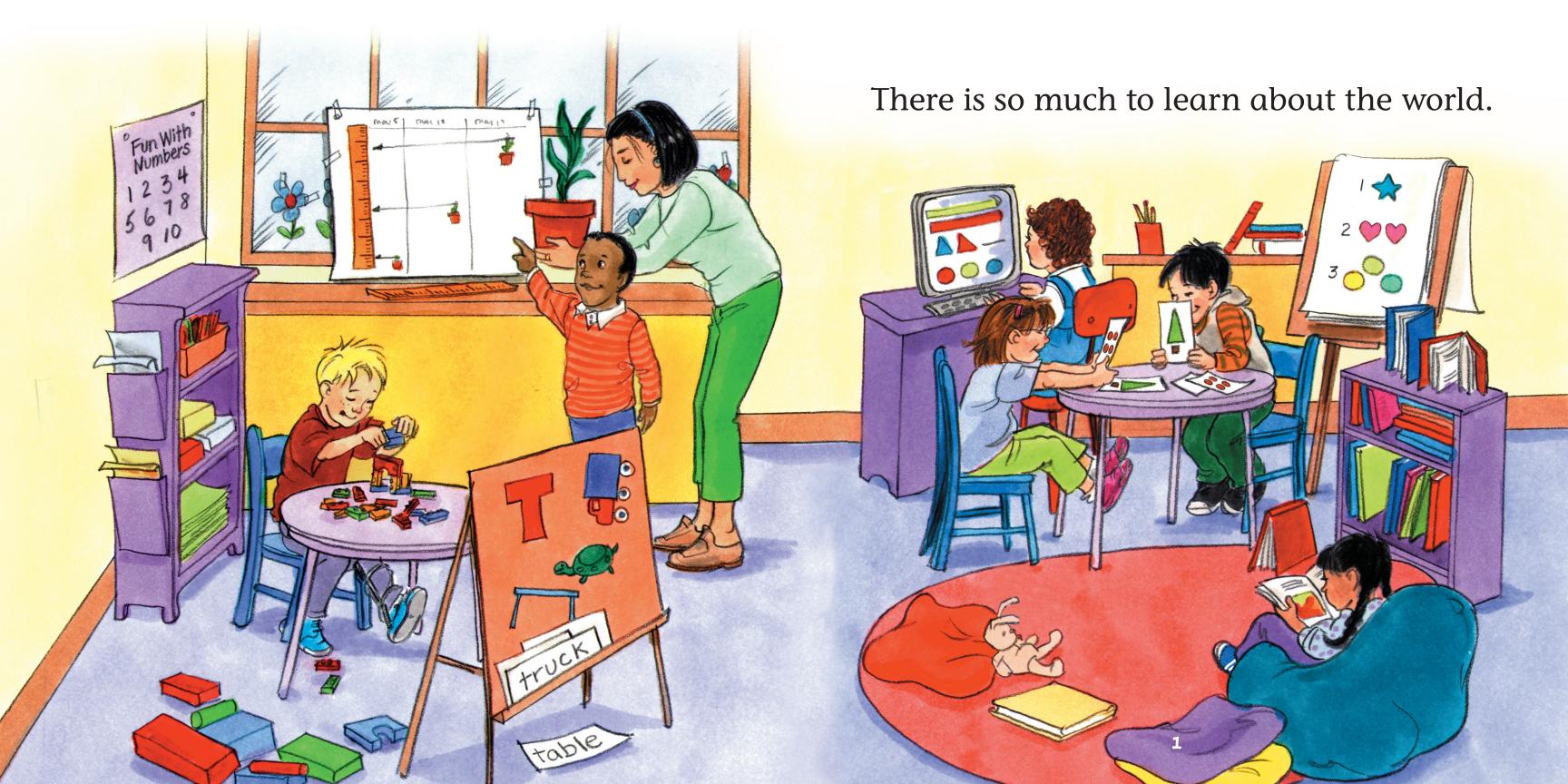
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Dedication

To David and our children Kara, Erika, James, Daniel, Julia, and Andrea, for listening!

Acknowledgments

I wish to thank Meredith Johnson for her beautiful illustrations. I also thank Judy Galbraith and all those at Free Spirit who believed in this series. Special thanks go to Marieka Heinlen for the lovely design and to Margie Lisovskis who, as editor, has contributed her wonderful expertise and creativity. Finally, I am grateful to Mary Jane Weiss, Ph.D., whose insight, skill, and caring have done much to advance the field of teaching social skills.





Listening helps me learn.

At school, I listen when my teacher talks. I want to hear and understand.



Ways to Reinforce the Ideas in Listen and Learn

As you read each page spread, ask children:

- What's happening in this picture?
- Who's listening? How can you tell that the person is listening?

Here are additional questions you might discuss:

Pages 1-3

- What are some things the people in the picture are learning about?
- Why is it important to listen when the teacher talks?

Pages 4–9

- How do you use your body when you listen?
- How do you use your eyes when you listen?
- What are some ways listening helps you learn?
- What three things do you do when you listen?
- How does keeping quiet (looking at the speaker, thinking about what you hear) help you when you listen? How does it help other people?

Pages 10-11

- What does it mean to listen *carefully?*
- How can you get help if you don't understand something?

Pages 12–13

- What are some times we listen as a group?
- Why is it important to listen quietly in the group?
- Have you ever tried to hear a story when someone was making noise? What happened?
- How do you know when it's your turn to speak?

Pages 14-17

- Why is it important to listen to directions?
- What might happen if you don't hear the directions?
- How can we be sure everyone hears them?

Pages 18-19

• What are some times when it's easy to listen? Why is it easy to listen then?

Pages 20-21

- What are some times when it's hard to listen? Why is it hard?
- What can you do if you need help listening? (In talking about distractions and listening, you may find it helpful to explain and discuss concepts like paying attention, ignoring other sounds, listening with "my whole self," or even "tuning in" and "tuning out" as ways to stay focused on listening. The language you choose will depend on the children. Some children may also find it easier to listen when holding something or sitting close to the teacher.)

Pages 22–23

- How does it feel when someone listens to you?
- How do you think other people feel when you listen to them?
- Why is it nice to be listened to?

Pages 24–25

- What are some times when listening and talking can solve problems?
- What happens if people don't listen to each other when there's a problem?
- Have you ever tried to solve a problem when someone wasn't listening? What happened? Did you solve the problem? How would listening have helped?

Pages 26-27

- What are some things you like to talk about with your family?
- How does listening help people in families get along?

Pages 28-31

- Who are these children listening to? Why are they listening?
- What do you do with your body (mouth, hands) when you listen?
- How do your eyes help you listen?
- What is respect? How does listening show respect? (You might explain respect by saying, "When you show respect to people, you show that you think they are important. Listening shows that you think a person's ideas are important.")