

Can I Play Too? Educational Bundle

Dear Educators, Therapists and Caregivers:

In *Can I Play Too?* by Samantha Cotterill, two children are eager to play with a toy together but struggle to understand their own feelings and each other's perspectives. This story provides a beautiful opportunity to help children develop an awareness of their own and others' feelings, and to begin to learn steps towards compromising. While not explicitly stated, the story also touches on neurodiversity and aims to develop empathy in all who read it.

This bundle of materials is designed for all learners: kinesthetic, visual, auditory, and tactile. Use it to support children and families across a variety of settings in their quest to understand emotions, empathy and compromise.

All materials are suitable for classroom, home, and community/library settings!

- The attached Train Feelings Chart from the story can be used both as a poster and/or cut into cards. It provides a simple method for identifying basic feelings and brief, scripted solutions to support compromise.
- The eight activity cards and fun bookmark project explained below provide varied developmentally engaging opportunities to extend learning in most any setting. We also provide parent suggestions for increasing the development of their child's social and empathy skills.

Enjoy!

Suggestions for using this bundle of activities:

Read Can I Play Too?

As you read the story together, use the *Questions to ask* activity card to help the child understand the story.

Activity Cards

All eight of the downloadable activity cards relate to the story. Choose which activities work to extend learning for your child(ren). Print the cards double sided and laminate. Hole punch each and connect them all with a ring.

Bookmark

The downloadable bookmark is double-sided; one side for children to decorate and the other side for parent/caregiver education. We recommend you print in color and attach a string to each bookmark.

Incorporate the Feelings Train Chart

After reading the story, download, color print, and use the attached *Train Feelings Chart* in several ways:

- Cut 3 separate feeling cards with just the 3 colored engines (green, yellow, red), and laminate. See *Activity Card 2*.
- Cut the *Train Feelings Chart* into 3 cards with the script prompts and model the script with children as they are engaged in activities. See *Activity Card 2*.
- Print the *Train Feelings Chart*. Cut off the scripts on bottom, laminate, and share in your learning space or in a visible spot at home, like on the fridge.
- During pre-determined transition times (entering the space, circle, morning routine, after lunch/snack) have the child(ren) identify what they are feeling by pointing and saying, if able. Model for the child(ren):
"You look confused, you must feel like the yellow train."
"I'm happy. I feel like the green train."
- Have children move a clothes pin or small magnet with their name or photo on it to how they are feeling.
- If developmentally ready, ask children to notice how one of their friends is feeling or show them on the chart and label for them.



Curriculum and Educational Bundle Activities were written by Erin E. Rich MS OTR/L as lead educator. We at Room 228 are true believers in the magic of learning empathy through relatable characters.



