



Mouse's Baby Blanket

By Beverly Swerdlow Brown

8 pages/68 words



Synopsis

Mother Mouse's knitting takes on disastrous proportions as the intended baby blanket "grows" and "grows." Shrinking her creation in the washer and dryer solves the problem for Mother Mouse. Now she has her baby blanket.

Before the First Page

Give each child a one-foot piece of yarn to create a "picture" with the yarn, i.e., a sun, a house, a snake. Then cut the piece of yarn in half. Using only one 6-inch piece, create a new "picture." Discuss how the picture changed when the size of the material changed. Tell the students that Mother Mouse had the opposite problem when she began to knit.

Set-Up for Success

Survey the front cover and page 1 establishing the idea that Mother Mouse is preparing to knit a blanket for her baby. On page 2, note that Mother Mouse already has a problem with her creation, "**But it became too big.**" Allow children to survey the rest of the book. On pages 6 and 7, the teacher may need to refer to the yarn project from *Before the First Page* and the effects of a shrinking piece of yarn.

Independent Reading – Students may need support with **knit**, page 2; **scarf**, page 3; **waited**, page 7.

Guided Reading – Review the suggestions for *Independent Reading*. Include support for **began** and **became**, page 2.

Learning about Print

- 1-1 correspondence on multiple lines of text.
- Punctuation marks – period, apostrophe used in possessives.

Key Words and Phrases

Mouse began to knit But it became too big.

Learning about Words

The vocabulary in this book provides opportunities to introduce, practice or enrich the following:

- Word family – **big**.
- Homonym – **to, too, two**.
- Prefix **be** – **began, became**.
- Silent **k** – **knit**.
- Opposite word pairs – **big** and **small**.

Assessment Opportunities

The following problem-solving behaviors can be observed and recorded:

- Reading with expression.
- Reading fluently using the pattern of the story.
- Using beginning letters and sounds to solve unfamiliar words.
- Predicting story events and outcomes.
- Using pictures as a source of information.
- Using word segments to solve unfamiliar words.

After the Last Page

- Bring in a favorite toy, blanket or other item from infancy or the toddler years. Tell or write about these items.

- * Make a story map sequencing the events in the story.
- Write a new story: “Mouse Began to Cook or Plant.”
- Write about different types of clothing and the appropriate seasons to wear them.
- Set-up a listening center with mouse books and tapes. Record original mouse stories for others to listen to.

Throughout the Day

Math

- Explore the concept of greater than and less than.
- Compare pictures or objects to determine big, bigger and biggest.
- Graph who in the class is the oldest, middle and youngest child in the family.



Problem-Solving

- * Calculate the following: How many ears do ___ mice have? How many tails do ___ mice have? How many feet do ___ mice have? Graph the answers.
- How many baby blankets would it take to make a double bed blanket? Predict and test.
- Think of other ways that Mother Mouse could have solved her problem. Example: pulling out stitches, cutting.

Social Studies

- Learn how a family prepares for a new baby.
- Adopt an egg for a day to learn about the responsibility of caring for someone.

Science

- Explore the concept of heat causing shrinkage.
- Study the effects of heat. Experiment with eggs, ice, etc. What happens when heat is applied?
- Learn about the process of creating yarn from wool.

Art

- Create a string art picture.
- Use a piece of yarn to outline a design. Fill in the spaces of the design with crayon, marker or paint.

The Home Connection

- Knit something with an adult family member.
- Cover up with a special blanket or quilt when reading.
- Build a tent or fort using blankets. Read inside the tent.
- Send a muslin quilt square home with the book. Each family decorates a square and attaches it to the class quilt.

* Show What You Know – a document to keep

Activities marked with an asterisk (*) are appropriate for assessment.

Read on...

- Blackwood, Mary. *Derek the Knitting Dinosaur*.
 DePaola, Tomie. *Charlie Needs a Cloak*.
 Henkes, Kevin. *Chrysanthemum*.
 Hilton, Nette. *The Long Red Scarf*.
 Hutchins, Pat. *You'll Soon Grow into Them, Titch*.
 Laurin, Anne. *Little Things*.
 Lionni, Leo. *Frederick*.
 Walsh, Ellen Stoll. *Mouse Paint*.
 Worthington, Denise. *Our House Had a Mouse*.
 Young, Ed. *Seven Blind Mice*.