

# Begin Reading with CAT the CAT

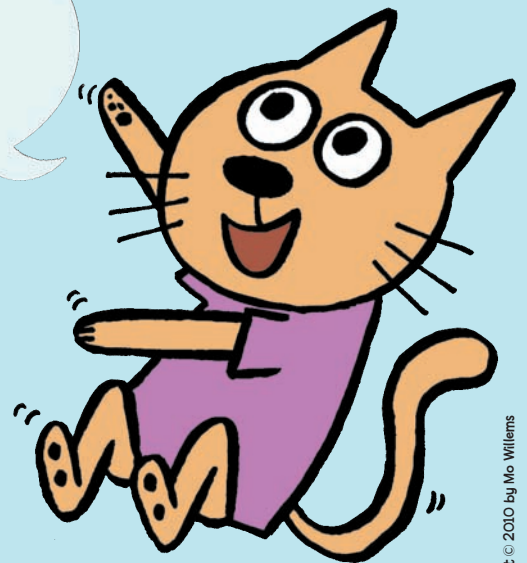


**Grow with Mo!** Mo Willems is the award-winning author and illustrator of groundbreaking books beloved by kids, parents, teachers, and librarians. Now kids can begin reading with Mo at an even earlier age! Especially for the youngest of children, the Cat the Cat books introduce early learning concepts through vibrant art, simple text, and repetition. Before kids are ready for the Pigeon or Knuffle Bunny, introduce them to Cat the Cat and her world of friendship and fun.

The importance of reading daily to babies and young children cannot be overemphasized, and Mo Willems' Cat the Cat series is the perfect beginning for new readers. Literacy begins at birth, and studies show that newborns and infants who are read to have a head start in life, gaining an earlier understanding of language and sounds.

The stories about Cat the Cat and her animal friends promote listening proficiency, vocabulary skills, attention span development, memory development, and the process of learning information through illustrations while also stimulating the senses and strengthening the bond between parent and child. The books teach young listeners the importance of friendship, encouragement, exploration, and imagination. Most significantly, with their adorable, relatable characters and ever-present humor, the Cat the Cat stories instill a love of books and learning. Begin reading with Cat the Cat and grow with Mo!

Let's  
read!



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# Making Friends

## Meet CAT the CAT

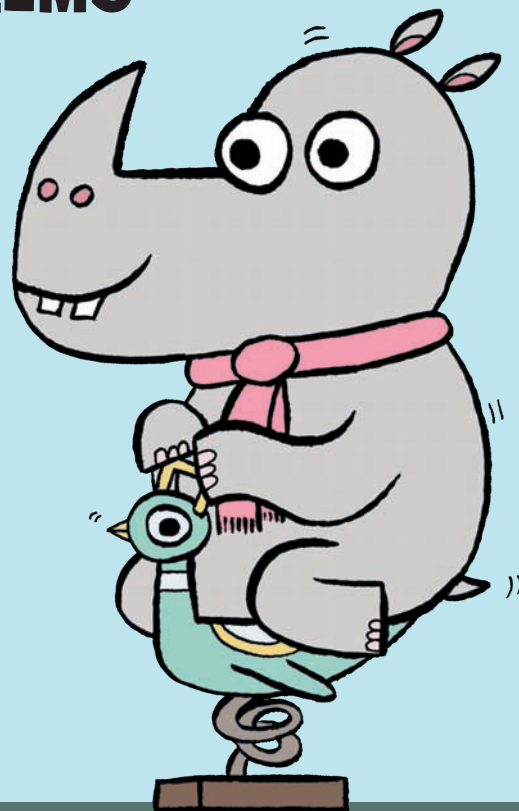


Hi! I'm Cat  
the Cat!

**Cat the Cat** is a spunky feline who stars in her own series of picture books written especially for the very youngest readers. Cat the Cat is friendly, energetic, inquisitive, and caring, and she sure likes her friends. You will too! Cat the Cat loves to welcome young readers into her world, where a surprise is waiting in every book. Come on in!

## Meet MO WILLEMS

**Mo Willems** likes writing and drawing funny books, such as the Caldecott Honor Books *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale*, and *Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity*. He also had fun creating favorites like *Leonardo, the Terrible Monster* and the *Elephant and Piggie* series, which won two Geisel Awards. Before making books, Mo wrote and animated for *Sesame Street*, where he won six Emmy Awards and made lots of friends. Learn more about Mo at [www.GoMo.net](http://www.GoMo.net) and [www.mowillems.com](http://www.mowillems.com).



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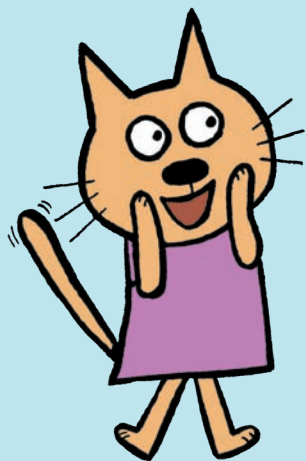
# CAT the CAT, Who Is THAT? Activities

## Before Reading

**Cat the Cat** has lots of friends, but there's always room for more!

Building new friendships is an essential part of child development.

Before sharing *Cat the Cat, Who Is That?* with young listeners, talk with them about the value of friendship, what it means to be a good friend, and the importance of having old friends *and* making new ones.



Let's  
find out!

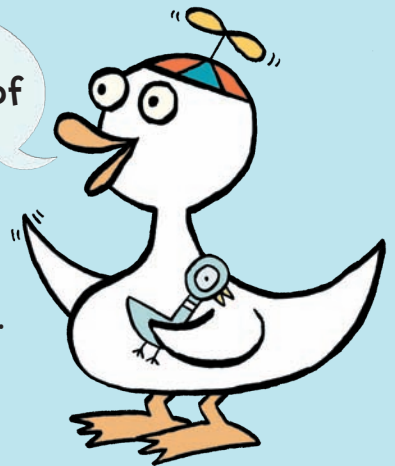
## Who Is That?

Help children learn to identify their peers with this naming activity. Call on one child in the group at a time and point to another child and ask, "Who is that?" Keep calling on different children until everyone has had a chance both to answer the question and to be named. Parents can do this activity at home by using photographs of family members and family friends.

## What Is That?

As an extension of the previous activity, help children learn to identify objects that they commonly use. Play the same game described above, but instead of pointing to people, point to objects in the room and ask, "What is that?" Continue this activity over a period of time, adding new objects and reviewing ones that children have learned already.

It's the  
Pigeon, of  
course!



I sure  
like my  
friends!



## Liking Friends

What does Cat the Cat like about her friends? Encourage children to use their imagination to come up with one or more qualities that Cat the Cat likes about Mouse the Mouse, Duck the Duck, Fish the Fish, and her new mystery friend. What qualities do children like about their friends and family members?

## Saying Hello

As you read the book aloud, have children listen for the different ways that the animal friends say hello to one another. What other words or phrases can children use to greet their friends? Have children try greeting their friends the way Cat the Cat does. Then ask children to make up their own greetings and try them out on one another.

Hey,  
dude!



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# Let's Say Hi to Friends Who FLY! Activities

## Before Reading

**Cat the Cat** cheers on her friends as they fly. Supporting and encouraging peers is an important skill for young children to learn. Before reading *Let's Say Hi to Friends Who Fly!*, discuss with children how they feel when a friend or family member cheers for them. How can children support others and help their friends experience those same sorts of feelings?



## Playground Story Time

The setting for this book is a playground, so why not enjoy an outdoor story time? Start reading at the swing set, move on to the sandbox, climb over the monkey bars, proceed to the seesaw, and finally end up at the spring animals, all the while having children listen to you read the corresponding sections of the story at each location. Parents can also bring the book along during their trips to the playground so that they can read with their children in addition to playing.

## Animal Friends

Identify the animals introduced in the first two *Cat the Cat* books: bat, bee, bird, cat, duck, fish, mouse, and rhino. Show children photos of these eight animals and help them identify how they look in real life. Can children recognize these same animals at the zoo, in the wild, in movies, on television, and in other picture books?

I'll  
bee your  
friend!



Can  
you fly?

## Taking Flight

Explore movement through this activity. Bee the Bee buzzes through the air, while Bird the Bird flaps, Bat the Bat flutters, and Rhino the Rhino zooms. Have children imitate one of these four characters at a time as they practice buzzing, flapping, fluttering, and zooming around the room. How is each type of movement different from the others?

Told  
you I could  
fly!



## More Friends Who Fly

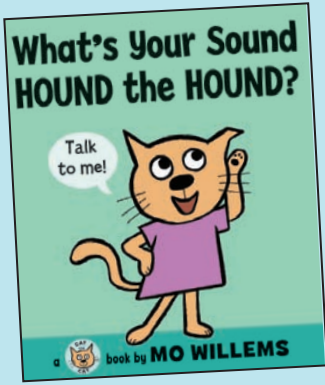
Reach beyond the story by having children identify other things, both living and man-made, that fly. What animals can fly besides a bee, a bird, and a bat? Can a rhinoceros *really* fly? Rhino the Rhino zooms through the air with the aid of a plane. What other man-made flying objects can children name?

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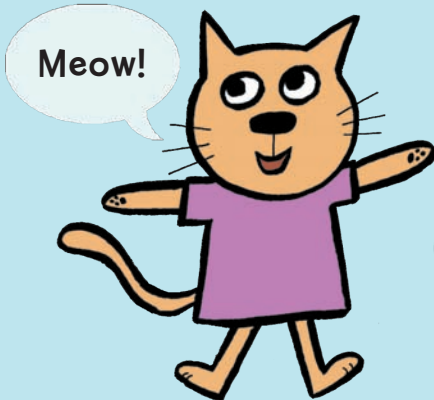
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# What's Your Sound, HOUND the HOUND? Activities

## Before Reading

**Hound the Hound** and Cat the Cat's other friends all show off their sounds in *What's Your Sound, Hound the Hound?*, but Bunny the Bunny doesn't have a sound! Before reading the book aloud to young listeners, remind them that everyone is unique and everyone has special talents. So even if their friends are good at things that they're not, or they're good at things that their friends aren't, they can all still encourage one another and play together.



## What's Your Sound?

Hound the Hound, Chick the Chick, and Cow the Cow all share their special sounds, but what sound does Cat the Cat make? Ask children, "What's your sound, Cat the Cat?" Then help them learn the sounds of some of Cat the Cat's other friends, including Bird the Bird, Duck the Duck, Horse the Horse, Mouse the Mouse, Owl the Owl, Pig the Pig, and Sheep the Sheep.



## Somebody Needs a Hug

In some situations, no words can comfort as well as a hug. Remind young listeners about the importance of supporting and caring for their friends and family members. Then help them come up with several situations in which a comforting hug might be called for. Situations might include falling down and hurting oneself, losing a favorite toy, or making a mistake. Encourage children to be aware of these sorts of things happening to others and how a hug can make a difference in how someone feels.

Practical yet stylish!



## Self-Expression Dress-Up

Cat the Cat wears a dress, Bunny the Bunny wears a tie, and Hound the Hound and Cow the Cow both wear aprons. Discuss with children how clothes can be functional, as Hound the Hound's and Cow the Cow's aprons are, and also a form of self-expression, as Bunny the Bunny's tie is. Then share with them a collection of accessories—hats, scarves, ties, aprons, belts, suspenders, and more—and have them play dress-up. Discuss how each accessory can be both functional *and* expressive.

## Tea-Party Picnic

At the end of the book, the animal friends come together for a tea-party picnic, complete with a basket of fruit and dog bone biscuits. Host a tea-party picnic for children, serving juice from a teapot, various healthy fruits, and cookies cut in the shape of dog bones. Read the Cat the Cat books aloud at your picnic and enjoy some of the related activities described here.

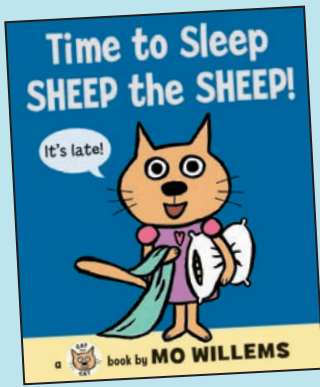


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# Time to Sleep, SHEEP the SHEEP! Activities

## Before Reading

**Sheep the Sheep** and the other animal friends are ready for sleep, but how do they know it's bedtime? Before reading *Time to Sleep, Sheep the Sheep!* aloud to children, ask them to think about things that tell them when it's time for bed. Signals might include that it gets dark outside, they finish dinner, they yawn or feel sleepy, or they hear evening crickets. Why is getting a good night's sleep important?

Let me just finish this page!



## Bedtime Routine

Cat the Cat's friends all do things to get ready for bed: Sheep the Sheep reads a book, Pig the Pig takes a bath, Giraffe the Giraffe brushes her teeth, Crab the Crab has a glass of water, Horse the Horse goes to the bathroom, and Shark the Shark grabs his favorite stuffed animal and doll. Ask children to describe their bedtime routines. Do they do things in the same order every night? What is their favorite part of getting ready for bed?

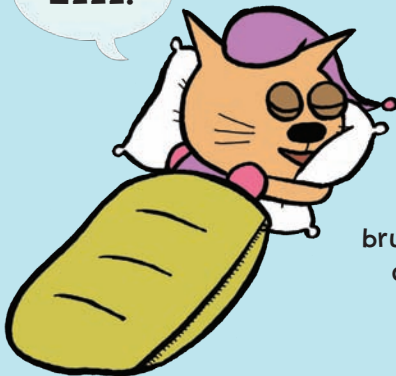
I won't bite—promise!



## More Animal Friends

Extend the "Animal Friends" activity from *Let's Say Hi to Friends Who Fly!* with this project. After children have learned to identify the animals in the first two Cat the Cat books, help them learn the animals introduced in the third and fourth books: bunny, chicken, cow, crab, dog, giraffe, horse, owl, pig, shark, and sheep. Show children photos of these eleven animals and help them identify how they look in real life. In what other places—in books and magazines, on television, or at a zoo—can children recognize these same animals?

Zzzz!



## Daytime Sleepover

Host a Cat the Cat sleepover! Have children wear their pajamas and bring blankets or sleeping bags with them. Pretend that naptime is actually bedtime and do some of the same things that the animal friends do in the book, including brushing their teeth, reading a book, and playing checkers. Parents can adapt this same activity for home by hosting a nighttime Cat the Cat sleepover.

I'll take the night shift.



## Nocturnal Animals

Owl the Owl isn't ready for bed because he's nocturnal. This means that he is active at night and sleeps during the day. Bat the Bat and Mouse the Mouse, Cat the Cat's friends from earlier books, are also nocturnal animals. Help children learn to identify other nocturnal animals, including badgers, crickets, hedgehogs, raccoons, and skunks.

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