



MOOZIE'S KIND ADVENTURE - Storytelling Small Group Activity Orchestrated by **Children's Kindness Network**, nonprofit organization

Background Information

Teaching a child to be kind is one of the greatest lessons and best gifts we can model for and teach to children. Moozie is a lovable, gentle character to whom children can easily relate and from whom they learn valuable, lifelong lessons. Sharing Moozie's story, you provide the opportunity to make an enduring difference in the lives of children. Through Moozie, children learn kindness and empathy.

As the leader, your attitude is more important than what you say or do. If children know you care, they will try to please you. Children know you care and will engage when you:

- Notice them
- Listen to what they are saying
- Share that you understand what they are experiencing and feeling

The leader should be familiar with the story, Moozie's Kind Adventure, by reading it prior to reading aloud to the children.

When leading a group of 3 - 5 year olds: They may talk constantly and ask many questions; the leader will need to keep "things moving" to keep the children's attention. The leader may need to say something like: **I know you have a lot of wonderful things to share, but let's listen and find out about Moozie's Kind Adventure.**

When leading a group of 6 - 8 year olds: They will have longer attention spans; they can describe situations affecting their emotions and can express complex emotions such as pride, guilt, and shame. They will have a much easier time acting out Moozie's story.

This lesson will take about 20-30 minutes and an additional 15-20 minutes if you include the role play activity (See Role Play *Moozie's Kind Adventure* below).

Story Synopsis

Moozie's Kind Adventure is a charming story of Moozie the cow saving three ducklings from a stampeding herd of cattle, all due to her kind attitude. In this story Moozie sees a herd of cattle charging down the path for water and three little ducks that are going to get squashed. Moozie tries to shoo them out of the way, but they won't budge. She realizes she has to stop the herd saying, "There's nobody else, so it's all up to me. I must turn the herd. I will do it. I must!"

What you will need

- The book, Moozie's Kind Adventure
- Moozie the Cow
- Moozie posters - displayed if available
- Moozie stickers - one for each child if available

Leading the Small Group

*The leader should welcome the children as they enter the room. **Hello! I'm so glad you are here!** Have the children sit on the floor together or in chairs facing the front of the room. **Please have a seat on the floor (or in a chair if provided).** The leader and Moozie will present in front of the children.*

Leader:

Hello boys and girls! Welcome! I'm so glad you are here! I'm _____ and this is my friend Moozie the cow! (*Moozie waves to the children*).

This is a very special day for us today! Do you know why? Because Moozie and I get to be with YOU! - and we know that you are all very special! Raise your hand if you are special and important! That's great! Now turn to the person by you and tell them - "You are special and important!" (*Allow children to turn to their neighbor and state the phrase*).

That's great! And now Moozie and I would love to talk to you about kindness. Raise your hand if you can tell us what it means to be kind. (*Choose one or two students to give what being kind means to them - or explain that when someone is kind, they are being nice and thoughtful*).

Leader continues:

Now let's settle in while Moozie and I share the story of *Moozie's Kind Adventure*. First let's take a look at the cover of the book.

*Leader holds up the book and turns to Moozie to ask: **Is that you on the cover, Moozie?** - Moozie can nod, yes!*

*Turning to the children the leader will ask: **You can certainly see Moozie! Who else do you see on the cover?***

(Let the children respond or if needed, the leader should point out a duck, three ducklings, and even a butterfly are on the cover. Explain that ducklings are baby ducks).

That's right! And where are they? (They are outside, resting in a field or pasture).

*The leader will then ask the children: **What do you think is going to happen in this story?***

*The leader will choose two or three children to listen to their predictions and respond: **That's a good idea** or **Wow, that's a good guess. Well, now let's read the story to find out.***

Leader reads the story to the children, and should hold up the book as it is being read slowly, so the children can see the pictures. If Moozie is with you, she should make movements and gestures as appropriate while the story is being read and/or she should listen intently.

*The leader may want to explain words like hooves and stampede as the story is being read. For example: When the leader reads: **The hoofbeats of cattle. The herd's on the go. It's heading her way to the valley below.** The next page shows a close-up of the hooves. **Wow! Look at the***

hooves of the cows. See, they are a hard covering on the foot of the cow. Turn to Moozie... Moozie, show us your hooves! (Moozie holds up her hooves). That's great!

Continue reading: The cattle smell water and pick up their speed. A fast-moving trot soon becomes a stampede. - a stampede is when the cattle start running even faster, almost as if they are afraid.

Leader speaking to Moozie after reading the rest of the story:

Wow Moozie! That was quite an adventure! You were so kind to help keep the ducklings safe! (Moozie puts her hooves on her heart and nods).

Turning to the children for discussion:

- **What would have happened to the ducklings if Moozie had thought, "I've tried twice to get them out of the way, and they just continue to frolic and play" - and said, "It's not my responsibility to help the ducks!"? What would have happened if she decided to NOT be kind and NOT helped the ducklings?**

Let one or two children respond - or the leader may explain that the ducklings would have gotten hurt.

- **Raise your hand if you would like to share a time when you showed kindness to someone.**

The leader chooses several children to respond to the question. The leader should engage in eye contact with the child who is speaking. Leader may repeat the child's answer so all can hear. Based on the child's answer, examples may include:

*If the child says, "I helped my friend put away her toys," the leader would respond: **That's right! You were being kind to others when you helped your friend put away her toys!***

If the child says, "I took my dog for a walk," the leader would respond:

Yes! That was being kind to animals when you took your dog for a walk!

If the child says, "I picked up some trash and put it in a trash can," the leader would respond:

Wow! You were being kind to the Earth when you picked up trash!

If children are slow to respond, the leader may use one or two of the examples (below) to get them started:

Raise your hand if you have ever helped your friend put away toys. That's great! You are showing kindness to others.

Raise your hand if you have ever taken your pet for a walk, or pet a dog. That's great! You showed kindness to animals.

Raise your hand if you have ever put trash in a trash can or put a bottle in a recycling bin. Wow! You showed kindness to the earth!

*Once children get started - they may all want to share. The leader may end that questioning portion by saying: **We have time to hear two more examples.***

Leader then asks:

- **When you show kindness to someone else, how does it make you feel?**

The leader chooses several children to respond to the question. The leader should engage in eye contact with the child who is speaking. Leader may repeat the child's answer so all can hear.

Leader continues:

- **When you are kind to someone else, you are just like Moozie who said, "It's all up to me!" Boys and girls, just like Moozie, it's all up to YOU to be kind.**

Using examples the children just gave (or the following), the leader can repeat them using "It's all up to YOU to share your toys; It's all up to YOU to smile at others; It's all up to YOU to remember to say thank you, It's all up to YOU to say something nice to someone else.

So repeat after me, It's all up to me to share! (let children repeat); **it's all up to me to smile at others!** (let children repeat); **it's all up to me to say please and thank you!** (let children repeat)

- **Raise your hand if you can tell me a word we can use to show kindness to others.**
 - Leader will choose several children to respond or give examples like: Please, Thank You, Excuse Me, Share, Take Turns, Way to go, Super, You're Nice, Great, Well Done, Nice Job, Terrific, Outstanding, You're a Good Listener, You Are Nice, You're My Friend, You're the Best, I Knew You Could Do It, You Brighten My Day, Marvelous

If time permits, introduce the activity below here, otherwise...

Leader Concludes

Thank you so much for joining me and Moozie today. Moozie has a wonderful message to share! Remember, you can make someone else feel great when you are kind to them. And when you make someone else feel great by being kind, then guess what? You will feel great, too! We hope you will always be kind to others!

If you have Moozie stickers to give to the children the leader should say:

Before you leave, Moozie and I want to give you a special sticker because you are Moozie's new friend. She wants to remind you to be kind today. And even though you may not be wearing the stickers after today, try to always remember to be kind.

The leader may give out Moozie stickers to children (one sticker each if just 3-4 year olds; 2 or 3 each to older participants).

Activity if time permits

Role Play *Moozie's Kind Adventure*

- Explain they are going to make a play of the story. **Now boys and girls, let's retell Moozie's story together by making a play.**

- Choose children to be ducks. Ask the children what the ducks are doing in the water, and encourage them to act like ducks. **I need three volunteers to be the ducklings. What were the ducklings doing? The ducklings should stand over here and play.**
- Choose a child to be Moozie. Ask the children what cows do and encourage 'Moozie' to act like a cow. **I need one volunteer to be Moozie. You may stand over by the ducks getting ready to protect the ducklings and to shout out a very loud mooooo.**
- Choose several children to be the herd of cows on the trail, up the hill, The number will depend on the amount of space available for the herd to “stampede”. Ask the children what is happening and have them do the movements and make the sounds. **Now I need several volunteers to be the herd of cattle. You will start over here (away from the ducklings).** Show the path the cattle should take.
- Remind the actors that Moozie is the only one who understands the danger the ducklings are in. Remind them what Moozie does to stop the herd. **Remember Moozie tries to get the ducklings to move out of the way as the cattle come closer, but the ducklings continue to play. Then Moozie lets out a loud Mooooo and the cattle stop and go a different direction.**
- **Now let's give it a try as I read the story.**
- It may be a little chaotic, but let the children have fun.

Leader Notes for speaking with Childcare Teacher/Program Director

- With gratitude for the chance to introduce Moozie, present hardcover Moozie's Kind Adventure and Moozie's Orchestra Adventure books, Moozie puppet, and any other predetermined Moozie teacher kit items for teacher/classroom.
- Encourage teacher/director to play Moozie Kind Messages podcast episodes (on Spotify or Apple Podcasts) in classroom.
- Encourage the teacher to have children bring home Moozie (the puppet) for weekend rotation. Encourage the child and parent to journal how the child or others were kind like Moozie over the weekend.