



Teacher's Resource Guide
Liam's Big Surprise
by
Dawn Renee Young

Synopsis

Liam is preparing to be a big brother and feels a mix of curiosity, worry, and excitement about the changes in his family. The story uses gentle narration and warm illustrations to help young children understand and express their emotions about a new sibling, emphasizing love, sharing, and family bonds.

Learning Objectives

1. Understand feelings about getting a new sibling.
2. Practice empathy, sharing, and expressing emotions.
3. Build listening, speaking, and drawing skills.
4. Recognize the importance of family and sibling relationships.



Note: Look for the hidden heart on each page it reminds children to always be kind to others.

Lesson Plan

Before Reading



Discussion Starter:

- “Do you have a brother or sister?”
- “How do you feel about them?”
- “Has your family ever had a new baby? How did you feel?”

Picture Walk:

- Flip through the book’s pictures.
- Ask, “What do you think is happening here?”

During Reading

Active Listening:

- Pause to ask, “How do you think Liam is feeling right now?”
- Encourage children to look for the hidden heart on each page.

Prediction:

- “What do you think Liam’s big surprise will be?”

1. After Reading

Discussion Questions:

- How did Liam feel about getting a new sibling?
- What was the big surprise?
- How did Liam’s feelings change during the story?
- What can we do to help a new baby or sibling feel welcome?

Vocabulary Review:

- Review new words: sibling, surprise, family, share, and love.

ACTIVITIES

1. Draw Your Family

- Children draw a picture of their family and share who is in it.

2. Feelings Chart

- Make a chart with different faces (happy, sad, surprised, etc.).
- Ask children to point to or color how Liam felt at different points in the story.

3. Welcome Baby Cards

- **Children create cards or pictures to welcome a new sibling or baby.**

4. Role Play Sharing

- Use dolls or stuffed animals to practice sharing and caring for a new sibling.

Social-Emotional Focus

1. Discuss how it's normal to feel many things about a new sibling—excited, nervous, or even jealous.
2. Practice ways to show love and kindness to family members.

Connect with the Author

Author's Website: <https://www.mrsgoodchoice.com>

Contact for School Visits: dawn@mrsgoodchoice.com

Dear Families,

This week, our class is reading *Liam's Big Surprise* by Dawn Renee Young. This heartwarming story explores the feelings a child might have when a new sibling joins the family. We'll use the book to talk about families, sharing, and how to welcome new brothers or sisters.

Here's how you can join in at home:

- Ask your child what happened in the story and how Liam felt.
- Talk about your own family and any new siblings or babies.
- Share stories or photos of when your child was a baby, or when a sibling joined the family.
- Make a "welcome" card or drawing together for a new or younger sibling.

Thank you for helping your child learn about family, kindness, and sharing! If you have special family stories or photos you'd like to share with our class, please let me know.

Warmly,