

It Was Supposed to Be Sunny

The 2022 CLEL Bell Award Book for TALK

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When things go wrong on her special day, Laila talks through her feelings with her mom. Together they create an alternative party plan that is still fun. There are helpful parenting tips to reduce anxiety and disappointment included.

Activity Ideas for *It Was Supposed to Be Sunny*:

- Laila's mom helps her make a schedule to prepare for the day and help with anxiety. Sometimes, though, we need to change plans at the last minute. Make a schedule or to-do list with your child. Talk to them about being flexible and prepare ways work around obstacles. If you plan to go somewhere or do something new, tell them what to expect. Perhaps you can even practice what you'll do beforehand. They will learn how think flexibly and plan, two important concepts for a child's social/emotional wellbeing.
- Doesn't a unicorn obstacle run sound fun?! Draw a map of your house or backyard together. Decide where the best place would be to have your very own obstacle course. What types of obstacles should you try? Maps are an opportunity to talk about positional words (next to, above, near, etc.) and practice spatial awareness. They also begin to teach children that symbols are used to represent places on a map.
- Develop your child's creativity and decision-making skills with the game, "Yes, and!" Begin with a simple sentence, such as, "I like bananas!". Invite your child to add to your statement. "Yes, and I like to mush them up!" There's no one way to answer and each game leads to fun (and silly) conversations. Children want to do more with adults, like try new experiments, when adults encourage them to brainstorm and have fun!

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org> and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.



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