

Bathe the Cat

The 2023 CLEL Bell Award Book for READ

by Alice B. McGinty, illustrated by David Roberts
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This playful story follows a frantic family as they work together to get their chores finished before Grandma arrives! To do anything to avoid getting a bath, cat scrambles the list of chores on the fridge and hilarity ensues. The refrigerator magnets in the illustrations reinforce the idea that letters combine to represent the words we say.

Activity Ideas for *Bathe the Cat*:

- Children love to help their adults. Giving them small tasks helps develop their self-confidence and communication skills. Simple chores can also aid in building fine- and gross-motor skills while developing important health and wellness abilities. Tasks like dusting and wiping windows promote movement from side to side, which activates both hemispheres of the brain, aiding developing reading and writing skills.
- Before children can read words, they need to recognize letters and shapes. Play a game of I SPY and look for letters around your home, while in the car or bus, or in the grocery store. Look at Tshirts, toys, street signs, or boxes or cans. Since children first begin to identify letters as simple shapes, look for triangles, circles, and squares as well. All of this will help your child begin to recognize letters and understand that print has meaning.
- Talk about the family in the book: Who lives in the house? Who is coming to visit? How is your family similar or different? When children make personal connections to reading and writing, they can be more motivated to learn to read themselves.

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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