

Playful Paul

A Gosmos Grow Adventure



Playful Paul: (Attention Seeking/Academic Success)

Wanting to have fun and the positive attention of others is normal for most children. But it should be tempered with the reality of home and school priorities otherwise; your “Playful Paul” may be “left behind”.

Playful Paul

A. Main Focus:

Wanting to play, have fun, and get attention from others are all normal wants for most children. However, sometimes these wants become demands, and this can get in the way of learning what we need to learn in order to be happy and successful.

B. The Main Concepts:

We should know that it is important to learn the skills necessary to succeed in school because many of those skills (paying attention, being patient and persistent) are also skills you use for life to be happy and successful.

Unfortunately, some of us have "Stinky Thinking" beliefs that "I should not have to do the difficult, boring or scary things and should have fun all of the time." We may hang on to those "Stinky Thinking" beliefs even if others try and help us understand that "Stinky Thinking" will cause us to be unsuccessful and unhappy. But if you listen to those that have your best interest in mind, you will be able to learn "Good Thinking" skills that will allow you to be happy and successful.

Throughout the story Cosmos observes Playful Paul playing while the panda youngsters are engaged in "school" activities. Eventually, Cosmos gets up his courage and goes to Paul's mother to discuss what he has been observing. Cosmos tells the reader, "It is nice to be able to have time to play. It is nice to have others enjoy your company and laugh at your jokes. But in my wild world and your human world, you can't play all of the time. You also cannot always be the "clown crow" or in your world the "class clown".

C. Teach the Defining Terms to The Students

D. Listen to the Flip Book Story

E. Sample Dialogue with Students after Listening to the Story

What does Cosmos say is different about the lives of animals in the zoo compared to animals like him in the wild?

(The zoo animal's lives are more like the lives of humans. They don't have to find their own food, someone will care for them if they are sick and they are protected from predators and Cosmos observes that like humans, the Pandas have "school".)

What were the young pandas learning about in their panda school?
(They were learning things like the best bamboo to eat and how to make a nest and so on.)

Cosmos noticed one young panda not in the school. What was this panda doing? (He was far away acting silly to get the attention of the human visitors to the zoo. He was wanting to have fun instead of go to school.)

Do you any of you sometimes want to go play or have fun instead of coming to school?

But why is it important that we come to school even on those days when we really just want to go play? (Because without school, we will not be able to learn things or to know how to do things that will help us when we grow up)

What does Cosmos say about wanting to be the “clown crow” or the “class clown”? (That we cannot just play all the time and that acting silly to get attention can cause you to get in trouble or to not learn important things.)

Cosmos learns from mamma panda that this is a special school. What is special about this school? (The school has the “release program” where some young pandas will be placed back into their native habitat and their school is teaching them what they need to do to survive.)

Was Paul able to leave with the others and go back to the wild? (No because he did not learn the skills to survive.)

Cosmos Crow discusses the similarities between Paul and some humans he has observed. “Humans have a very complicated life. They must go to school for many years. If they play too much and do not pay attention, they may not learn something that will be very important when they grow up.”

Paul was not able to leave with the others for the return to nature because he did not learn the skills necessary to survive. Cosmos explains to his mother that this happened because of Paul’s “Stinky Thinking”, such as, “I should be able to have fun all of the time” and “If it is not fun or if it is boring or difficult I should not have to do it.” Cosmos then gave her some

examples of human's that have "Stinky Thinking" and she recognizes the similarities to Paul. She now understands that she will have to help Paul learn to replace his "Stinky Thinking" with "Good Thinking" so that next time he won't be "LEFT BEHIND".