

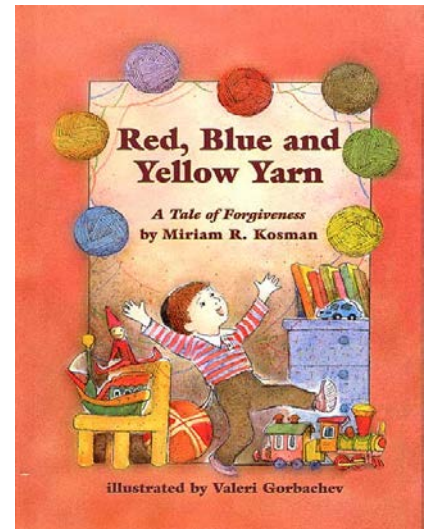
Red, Blue and Yellow Yarn

By Miriam R. Kosman

Illustrated by Valeri Gorbachev

Program Focus

Age group:	Ages 2-8
Time frame:	75 minutes
Central value:	Honoring Elders (<i>Kibud Zekeinim</i>) Forgiveness



Synopsis:

When his grandmother comes to visit, Donny feels as if he's constantly getting into trouble. His grandmother seems to have so many rules, and Donny inadvertently breaks almost every one of her rules. When Donny accidentally tangles his grandmother's yarn, his grandmother abandons her stern demeanor and lovingly comes to his aid. While helping Donny untangle the yarn, Donny's grandmother recounts stories from her own childhood, gently teaching Donny that all children make mistakes, and those who love them (especially their grandparents) are always willing to forgive children's errors and help them grow through their mistakes.

Goals

A major goal of this program is to use family stories as a means of strengthening bonds between seniors and children. The program can be run as an intergenerational event with family or at a senior center. During the program participants will engage in a variety of projects and activities involving yarn. Each yarn-based activity is designed to generate an increased appreciation for the many unique talents and abilities of grandparents and older friends. In addition to teaching about the value of honoring elders, this program is designed to address the theme of forgiveness and ways of saying "I'm sorry."

Suggested Location

Senior Center, Assisted Living Facility

Submitted by

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Plan in advance

Build a relationship with a Senior Center

This program's impact is increased with the engagement of young folks and elders. Find a willing collaborative partner at a local senior site. Use their expertise to plan a program with both PJ families and elders in mind. Alternately, invite grandparents and other seniors to join your family program at the usual location.

Prepare "Follow the Yarn Trail" Game

Materials Needed

- foam containers (e.g. from Michael's) or recycled containers
- Balls of different colored yarn
- Masking tape

Directions

- Prepare a container for each anticipated attendee (older and younger).
- Attach a long piece of yarn to each child's container.
 - Weave the attached yarn across the room, going under tables, around chairs, etc.
- Place 2-3 large balls of the yarn on each table.
- Cut small pieces of different colored yarn to hand out to children.

Prepare "Cozy Container" Craft Project

Materials Needed

- Tacky type glue with good adhesive qualities
- Foam or recycled containers
- Q-tips for spreading the glue
- Pieces of yarn of varying lengths
- Gem stones, sequins, foam shapes - interesting items to glue onto "cozy containers"
- Small plates
- Scissors (optional)
- Masking tape
- Pens



Advanced Preparations

- Pour glue into individual bowls.
- Dilute slightly with water if glue is very thick and difficult to spread.
- Place small collection of gem stones, foam shapes, sequins, etc. on small plates.

Prepare Song Sheet

Prepare Snacks

Materials Needed

- Cheese sticks
- Sliced fruits or vegetables (optional)

Prepare Storytelling Props

Materials Needed

- Blanket (ideally knitted afghan) for children to sit on as they listen to the story
- Optional:
 - Flannel board
 - Flannel board cut-outs made from poster board or card stock from attached patterns
 - Self-adhesive Velcro

Introduce with activities

Follow the Yarn Trail

Intro Words

Today we're going to read a story about a boy named Donny who tries to juggle/play catch with his grandmother's yarn and ends up creating a huge mess. To help us picture Donny's yarn mishap, we've spread some yarn all around this room. How does the yarn look? Do you think it will be easy to clean this yarn up? Right now, I'm going to give you a small piece of yarn. Your job is to find the strand of yarn that matches the color of the small piece in your hand. Follow your yarn trail all the way to its end. At the end of the yarn you'll find a special container/ can that you're going to decorate as part of today's program.



Directions

1. Ask seniors to position themselves at the tables. Leave empty chairs by each senior to make room for parents and kids to sit by them.
2. Hand child a small piece of yarn.
3. Ask each child to find and follow the yarn trail that matches the color of their piece of yarn.
4. After the child has located the can/container at the end of the yarn trail, ask the child to look on top of the tables and locate a large ball of yarn that matches the color of his/her yarn trail.
5. Ask child (and parent) to sit at the table with the matching ball of yarn.

Make “Cozy Containers”

Intro Words

Yarn plays an important part in the story that we're going to read today. Based on our story, we're going to use yarn in many different ways. Right now we'd like you to use yarn and collage materials to decorate this multipurpose can/container. As you work, or perhaps once you get home, you'll need to decide how you're going to use your container. Will your container hold pencils, pens, or paper clips? Will it serve as a toothpaste and toothbrush holder; or as a container for coins and spare change? The possibilities for your container are endless. I can't wait to see how you'll decorate your container, and to learn how you'll use it at home.

Directions

1. Everyone young and old, is welcome to decorate a container.
2. Detach long yarn trail/strand from can.
3. Optional: Cut the strand into many small pieces.
4. Using a Q-tip, cover a small portion of can/ container with glue.
5. Attach yarn, jewels etc. to can/container.
6. Apply glue to a new area and add more pieces.

Adaptation for Younger Children

Younger children and some seniors may find the yarn a bit frustrating to work with. It's hard to get the yarn to adhere to the can. Encourage younger children to use just a few pieces of yarn in their project and to rely more heavily on the other collage materials that can be applied using just a dab of glue.

Conversation: Children and Seniors

As children and seniors work at their tables, the group leader can raise a few questions and encourage everyone at the table to answer:

- What's your favorite color?
- What will you do with your container?
- Did your grandparent ever teach you a special skill?
- What else do you do with yarn?

Read the story

Hints for Sharing the Book

Introductory Remarks

*The book that we're going to read today is called **Red, Blue, and Yellow Yarn** by Miriam Kosner, illustrated by Valeri Gorbachev. Our book describes what happens to a young boy named Donny when his grandmother comes to visit for a week. The first thing that happens is that Donny needs to let his grandmother sleep in his room. Do you think Donny's going to like that? Let's read and find out.*

Adaptations for Younger Group

Consider using a flannel board and cut outs (see attached) to tell the story if there are children ages 2-5 in the group. The story is long; it will work best if it's substantially shortened and condensed.



Post-Reading Discussion:

Honoring Elders Discussion

- Donny had a special name for his grandmother. Do you remember what he called her?
 - What names do you use for your grandmother and grandfather?
- At first, was Donny happy that Bubby came to spend a week at his house? Why or why not?
- What were some of the rules that Donny needed to follow when Bubby was visiting?
- Did Donny argue with his Bubby? Did he say “I can bounce my ball inside if I want to”, or “I won’t wash my hands and you can’t make me”?
- Donny practiced a special mitzvah, a special rule of the Torah called- Kibud Zekeinim, honoring elders. The Torah tells us that we need to treat all older people with respect. Do you know what the words “honor” or “respect” mean?
- Can you describe ways to show respect to your grandparents and other senior/older friends?
- One way of showing honor and respect is by thanking people for what they do for us.
 - What are some of the ways in which your grandparents help you?
 - What do you like to do with your grandparents?
 - Can you remember to say thank you the next time you find yourself having a good time with your grandparents?

Forgiveness & Say Sorry Discussion

- Did Donny do something wrong in our story? What did he do?
- Who else in the story, besides Donny, made a mistake? What kinds of mistakes were made?
- Have you ever made a mistake? Can you describe your mistake?
- If you make a mistake what should you do?

Judaism and the Torah teach us that saying sorry is very important. We even have one Jewish holiday where we spend most of the day saying “I’m sorry.” (Does anyone know the name of that holiday?) I like to think of Yom Kippur as the Jewish “I’m sorry day.” Some grown-ups are so busy saying “I’m sorry” on Yom Kippur that they don’t even take a break to eat or drink.

According to Judaism there are certain steps that we need to follow if we want to offer a sincere apology. There are certain things that we need to do in order to let someone know that we are truly sorry.

1. First, we need to describe exactly what we did wrong. For example, Donny, according to this rule would need to say, “Bubby I’m sorry I played with your yarn and tangled it.”
2. Next, we need to try to come up with a way to undo the wrong. How did Donny fix his mistake? (He helped clean the balls of yarn that he had unraveled.)
3. The last step of apologizing (saying “I’m sorry”) involves being careful not to repeat the mistake when you find yourself in similar circumstances. What should Donny do the next time he walks into his room and sees the balls of yarn on the bed?

Questions for Seniors

If program is being held in a Senior Setting, the following questions can also be raised:

- Do you know that just by coming to our program today, you practiced the mitzvah of Kibud Zekeinim? Today, you did a kind act, you helped to bring happiness and joy to some senior friends.
 - Let’s ask our senior friends if they are happy that we came to visit today. “Seniors, what part(s) of today’s visit (so far) have made you feel happy and respected?”

Follow Up activities and resources

Yarn Web Sharing Circle: Appreciation and Forgiveness

Intro Words

By the end of our story, Donny has learned some new things about his grandmother. What did he learn about her? Right now we're going to play a yarn game that will help us learn a little about each person who is here with us today. When I toss/hand this ball of yarn to you, you need to say your name and then answer the question that I'm going to ask. After you've answered your question, keep your hands on the strand of yarn in front of you and pass/ toss the ball of yarn to someone else. Whoever receives the ball of yarn must introduce her or himself and answer our question.

Notes:

- The group leader can ask everyone the same question or ask different questions to different people. Even if the leader is asking the same question of everyone, he/she will need to repeat the question each time the yarn ball is passed.

Sample Questions – Senior / Grandparent Focus:

- Can you describe a lesson or skill that you learned from one of your grandparents?
- What do you (did you) like to do and /or where do you (did you) like to go when you're spending time with your grandparents?
- What names do you (or did you) use for your grandparents?

Sample Questions – Forgiveness Focus:

- What is something you might need to say sorry for?
- What is something you'd like to do better?
- When was a time when you felt sorry for something you did?

Yarn Bracelets

To close, you can take a piece of yarn from the balls on the table and tie it as a bracelet to remember your new friends or to remind you of what you'd like to do better.

Eating and Sharing Snack

Intro Words:

Today we're going to be serving string cheese and fruit for snack. Does anyone want to guess why we're going to eat string cheese? In order to practice Kibud Zekeinim, I'd like to ask every child to come up to the main table and pick up 2 sticks of cheese - one stick is for you and one is for the senior friend who is sitting near you.

Singing Songs:

Let's Be Friends (Yom Kippur)

Let's be friends -- make amends.
Now's the time to say I'm sorry.
Let's be friends -- make amends.
Please say you'll forgive me.

The ten days of Tesh-u-vah,
Time to make up, time to pray.
Shake my hand and I'll shake yours.
Let's be friends for always.

La.....la.....la.....la.....

I'm Sorry for What I Did Wrong

Tune: Avinu Malkeinu

I'm sorry for what I did wrong,
I'm sorry for what I did wrong.
I'll try to be better, no matter whatever
I'm sorry for what I did wrong.

I'll try, I'll try to be,
The best that I can be.
I'll try, I'll try, to do what is right
And be the best that I can be.

I'm sorry for what I did wrong;
I'm sorry for what I did wrong;
I'll try to be caring, more loving and sharing,
Forgive me for what I did wrong!

I'll try, I'll try to be,
The best that I can be,
I'll try, I'll try with all of my might
To do what I know is right.

I'm sorry for what I did wrong,
I'm sorry for what I did wrong.
I'll try to be better, no matter whatever
I'm sorry for what I did wrong.

Bubbie, Bubbie, When Are You Coming to Visit Me?

Tune: My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean

My bubbie is also my grandma, my savta, my
omma, my nana.(2X)
Bubbie, Bubbie when are you coming to visit
me?
Bubbie, Bubbie when are you coming to play?

My zaydie is also my grandpa, my saba, my
poppa, my gramps (2x)
Zaydie, Zaydie when are you coming to visit
me?
Zaydie ,Zaydie when are you coming to play?

Teshuva Song

Words and Music: Lisa Litman

Tune: [Click here](#)

I wanted to do right,
but things came out all wrong.
So to do *teshuvah*
I will sing you a song.

I didn't mean to hurt you,
I won't do it again.
I hope that you feel better
and you'll still be my friend.

We all make mistakes,
That's what people do.
I will say I'm sorry – and you will too.
We'll both say I forgive you,
That's what friends are for...
Then we can be friends forever more.

Resources for parents, teachers, families

Nurturing the Family

After the program, contact the families and thank them for coming. If possible, e-mail one or two photos which you may have taken at the program.

Send a few pertinent links to families

- [Grandparents and their Families](#)
PJ Library Blog Post
- [Beyond the Words “I’m Sorry”](#)
PJ Library Blog Post
- [Asking Bubbe: Honoring Elders by Seeking Advice](#)
PJ Library Blog Post





Feather pillow