

Olivia

by Ian Falconer

A Caldecott Honor title about a precocious piglet named "Olivia" who loves to play dress-up, be a beach bum, and read bedtime stories with her mother.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Do you think a pig would make a good pet? Why or why not?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why Olivia has on black and white leotards under her red dress?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Olivia*

- copying: to do exactly what somebody else does
- firm: showing certainty or determination
- beach: coastal sand
- sand castles: fine loose grains of rock or minerals made into castles
- bask: to lie in or expose yourself to enjoyable warmth
- nap: a period of short light sleep
- museum: a place where important things are preserved
- bath: immersing all or part of the body in a bathtub in order to wash it
- dinner: the main meal of the day, usually eaten in the evening
- finished: completed with skill and professionalism

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What kind of animal is Olivia?
- What are some things she does to wear herself out?
- Can you name the people that are in her family?
- What is the name of her dog? Cat?
- What does she do first thing in the morning?
- Can you name some of her different outfits?
- What does she like to do on sunny days? What does she make at the beach?
- What does she like to do on rainy days? What is her favorite picture? Not so favorite picture?
- What does she try to do when she gets home from the museum?
- What happened after she tried to paint a picture on her bedroom wall? Have you ever had time out? What happened after time out? Then what happened? And then?
- What did Olivia's mother do with her at bed time? How many books did Olivia's mother read to her?
- What is the last thing you should do at bed time? Kiss your mother good night? And then say "I Love You"?



Do

Guess the Animal!

Have the children fingerplay to the following:

Eight Baby Pigs

Two mother pigs lived in a pen.

(thumbs)

Each had four babies and that made ten.

(fingers of both hands)

These Four babies were black and white.

(fingers of one hand)

These four babies were black as night.

(fingers of other hand)

All eight babies loved to play

(wiggle fingers)

And they rolled in the mud all day!

(roll hands)