



Cat and Baby Gorilla: Unlikely Animal Friends

EPISODE LENGTH: 23:47



SUMMARY: We start off with an inside weather check, which reveals that Suso feels a little sad and lonely. So we do something special to cheer Suso up: we draw animal finger puppets!! Kids request to draw a baby gorilla and a cat (with cute eyes!) and we turn them into a puppet show to make Suso smile. Dr. Laurel, Expert Animal, drops in to teach us about unlikely animal friendships — such as people and their pets.

SUPPLIES: paper, pen/pencil, colors, fingers!



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING: naming and identifying feelings, taking others' perspectives, showing concern for others, developing positive relationships

CASEL COMPETENCIES: self-awareness, social awareness, relationship skills

CREATIVE SKILLS: fine and gross motor skills (including drawing cute eyes), shading, cutting and pasting.

Guiding Questions:

- Who is a friend who makes you feel good about yourself? How do they help you to feel more positive?
- Do you have a friendship that is unusual or unlikely? How are you different and how are you similar?
- Why do you think different animal species become friends with each other?

Key Moments:

1:50 Get started with an inside weather check. Suso feels rainy, so we do a special drawing to help cheer her up: a puppet show made of drawings just for Suso!

3:20 We go to the kid request line for two requests for puppets: a baby gorilla and a cat. Time to draw our unlikely animal friends, starting with cute sparkly gorilla eyes.

7:15 Always feel free to take a pause to slow down, and remember that everyone's drawing will look a little different. There's no right or wrong! Scribble out some baby gorilla hair, draw a body, and move on to the cat.

When coloring, pay attention to light and shading, and to the textures of our baby gorilla's and cat's fur.

15:10 Breaking news! Dr. Laurel, Expert Animal, calls in to talk about different species of animals that form close friendships.

19:37 Turn your drawings into finger puppets with scissors and some tape.

22:12 WendyMac puts on a show for Suso, whose inside weather turns sunny!





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(continued)

Book recommendations:

- **Line and Scribble** — by Debra Vogrig, pictures by Pia Valentinis
Can an unruly scribble be friends with an organized line? Using imaginative doodles and shapes, this story celebrates the differences that make friendships interesting and fun.
- **Amazing Animal Friendships: Odd Couples in Nature** — by Pavla Hanackova, pictures by Linh Dao
Learn about more unlikely friendships in nature! This book gives us more evidence that interspecies friendships are both possible and more common than we might know.

Older Kid Riff: Friendship Metaphors

So many unlikely pairings and relationships in the world just...work. And maybe more than work — they actually help each other thrive. Research unlikely animal friendships and pick one that stands out to you. Write down the characteristics of each animal and how they help each other. What can we learn from this? How does their relationship connect with relationships you have in your own life, such as a friend who does things differently than you, or a family member who is older or younger than you but whom you love and relate to?



Activities and Explorations!



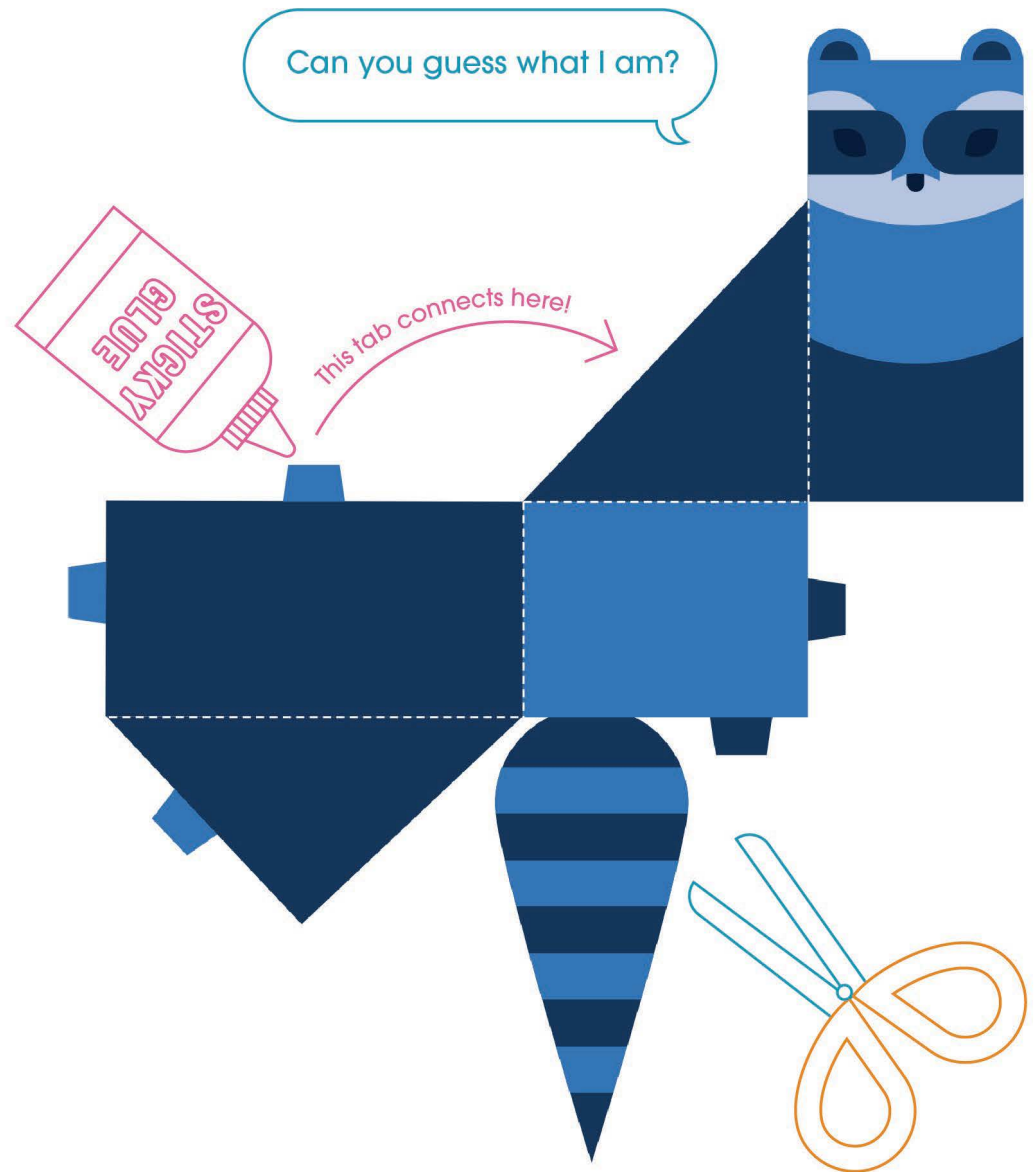
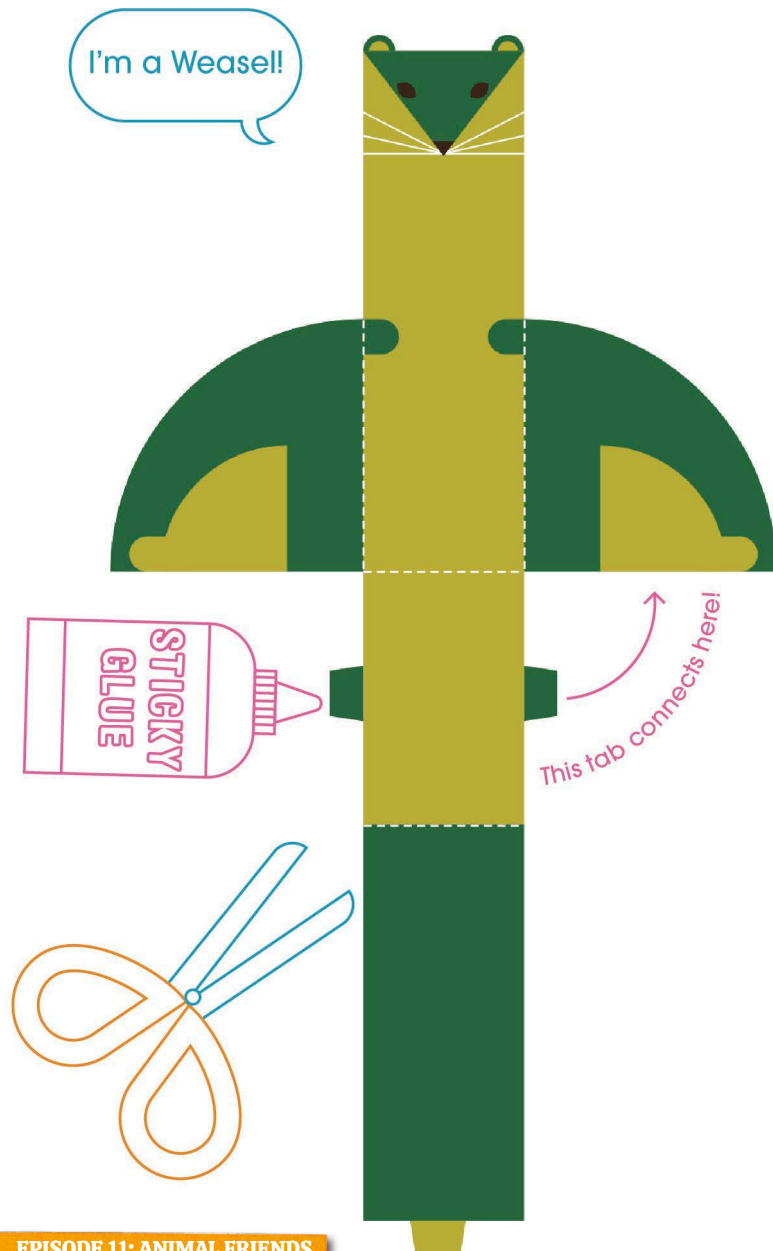
PODCAST CONNECTION: SUPER SURREAL SILLY MONSTER provides opportunities to draw more unlikely creature combinations. (page 78)

ACTIVITY: make more paper animal puppets to keep playing and building unusual friendships

EXPLORE MORE: Unlikely Animal Friendships

LET'S MAKE A PAPER ANIMAL FRIENDS!

To make these paper animal toys just cut them out, fold along the dotted lines, and glue the tabs where they connect!





Unlikely Animal Friendships

We drew unlikely animal friends this week (like Koko and Allball, our fave gorilla & cat pair). As Dr. Laurel shared with us, there are many other interspecies friendships to learn about.

Here are more examples of unlikely animal friends:

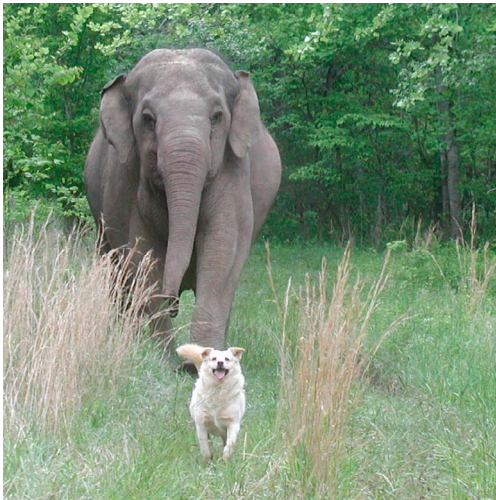


Image courtesy of the Elephant Sanctuary

Tarra, a retired circus elephant, was living at an elephant sanctuary in Tennessee. While the other elephants around her developed close friendships, Tarra remained alone — until she met a stray dog named Bella. Tarra and Bella became best friends. Tarra would pet Bella with her trunk, and kept the dog company when she was injured in an accident. (Head over to [THE ELEPHANT SANCTUARY](#) for more information.)



Image by Animal Place / First Spark Media

Mr. G and Jellybean, a goat and a donkey, grew up together on a California farm, but had to be moved due to neglect. When they were separated and moved to different animal rescue shelters, Mr. G the goat became depressed and refused to move or eat. So the staff at his shelter decided to find Jellybean and reunite the two animals. Mr. G was so joyful when he saw Jellybean again, he immediately started running around and eating.

Draw a picture of your most unlikely animal friend and how you interact.