
Room for Two

Classroom Guide

When your world gets bigger, your heart does too

CASEL Competency: Relationship Skills

Grade Level: Pre-K–1

Duration: 35–45 minutes

Category: Growing Up

Learning Objectives

- Understand that big feelings about change (jealousy, loss, worry) are normal
 - Recognize that sharing space doesn't mean losing what's yours
 - Learn that tiny connections grow into big love over time
 - Practice naming feelings about changes at home
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Overview & Preparation

Key Vocabulary

Share • Space • Change • Jealous • New • Together • Tiny • Connection • Patience • Belong

Materials Needed

- The personalized story
- Paper and crayons
- Two small boxes or containers
- Heart stickers
- Optional: baby dolls or stuffed animals

Before Reading

Connection Question

Has something in your home ever changed — a new room, a new person, a new pet? How did it feel at first?

Background Building

Sometimes our world changes in big ways: a new baby arrives, a room gets shared, things that were "mine" become "ours." In this story, the hero has to share their room — their special, private, just-for-them room. At first it feels like losing something. But the hero discovers that the smallest moments of connection (a tiny hand grabbing a finger, a shared giggle) are the beginning of something bigger than they imagined.

During Reading — Pause Points

- **When the hero remembers the room as "just mine" and sees it changing** — The room is changing and the hero feels sad about it. Is it okay to feel sad when things change, even if the change is good?
- **When the hero feels jealous of all the attention the new baby gets** — The hero feels invisible. Everyone is looking at the baby. Have you ever felt like that? What helps?
- **When the baby grabs the hero's finger for the first time** — A tiny hand grabbed the hero's finger! What do you think that moment felt like? Why is it so important?

Discussion Questions

1. The hero felt like their room was being "taken away." Was it? What was actually happening?
 - ↳ Can sharing something make it MORE special instead of less?
2. The hero felt jealous when everyone paid attention to the new baby. Is jealousy a bad feeling or a normal feeling?
 - ↳ What can we do when we feel jealous?
3. The tiny moment — the baby grabbing the hero's finger — changed everything. Why are small moments sometimes the most powerful?
 - ↳ What small moment has been really important to you?
4. At the end, the hero says the room is better with two. Why did their feelings change?
 - ↳ Have you ever changed your mind about something after giving it time?

Facilitation Tips

This story may bring up real and intense feelings for children with new siblings, blended families, or changing home situations. Let children share but don't force it. Normalize ALL feelings — jealousy, worry, and sadness are just as valid as excitement and love.

Emotional Payoff

The room that felt like it was shrinking turns out to be GROWING — and so is the hero's heart. The tiny moment of connection (a baby's hand, a shared laugh) is the seed that grows into a love bigger than any room could hold. Sharing space doesn't mean losing what's yours — it means gaining something you never knew you needed.

After Reading Activities

Two Boxes Activity

Duration: 15 min | Materials: Two small boxes per child, markers, small tokens

Each child decorates two boxes: "Just Mine" and "Ours." They place small items or drawings in each box. Discuss: some things are just for us (our feelings, our favorite toy) and some things are better shared (stories, laughter, blankets). Both boxes matter.

Connection Chain

Duration: 10 min | Materials: Paper strips, tape, markers

Each child writes or draws a small moment of connection on a paper strip — a hug, a shared snack, someone sitting next to them. Link the strips into a class chain. Discuss: small moments link together into something strong.

Heart That Grows Drawing

Duration: 10 min | Materials: Paper, crayons, heart templates in 3 sizes

Draw three hearts: small (just me), medium (me + someone), big (me + lots of people). Inside each heart, draw or write who belongs. See: the heart GROWS bigger. It doesn't get divided — it expands.

Writing Prompts

- Draw "your room" — first with just you, then with someone you share it with. What's different? What's the same?
- Write about a tiny moment when you felt connected to someone — a hand grab, a look, a shared laugh.
- If your heart was a room, who would live in it? Draw the room and everyone inside.

Home Connection

Family Letter

Dear Families,

Today we read "Room for Two," about learning to share space when your world changes. Your child explored the very real feelings of jealousy, loss, and worry that come with big changes — and discovered that tiny moments of connection (a hand grab, a shared laugh) are the seeds that grow into the biggest love.

Here is how you can continue this learning at home:

- Talk about a time your family made "room" for something or someone new — how did feelings change over time?
- Create a family connection chain: each family member adds a strip describing a favorite shared moment
- Ask your child: "What's in your 'Just Mine' box and your 'Ours' box?"

With warmth,

Your Child's Teacher

Related Books

- Julius, the Baby of the World by Kevin Henkes
- The New Small Person by Lauren Child
- Za Za's Baby Brother by Lucy Cousins
- I'm a Big Brother/Sister by Joanna Cole