

# The Birthday Box

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** Birthdays, Celebrations, Imagination, Creativity

**Grade Level:** Pre-K to 1st grade

**Book Brief:** A child gets a birthday present and discovers the joy of imagination.

**Author/Illustrator:**  
Leslie Patricelli



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading, find out what your child knows:** Ask your child the best part about birthdays. Ask about

your child's favorite birthday present.

**While reading, make connections:** Point out a time when your child pretended or used imagination.

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ Why do you think the boy liked the box so much?
- ◆ Do you think he liked the puppy?
- ◆ Who do you think gave him the present?
- ◆ What would you have done with the box?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### BUILD A COMFY BOOK BOX

Materials: medium to large cardboard box, pillow, markers or crayons

Help your child build a special place to read! Put a pillow or cushion in the box, like the boy does in the story. **Have your child decorate the outside of the box.** Put the box somewhere special. Place a basket of favorite books next to the box and let your child settle in with a good book!

### OUT AND ABOUT

**On your next walk or trip, activate your child's imagination by asking "What if" questions.**

- ◆ What if dinosaurs came back?
- ◆ What if there were no more books?
- ◆ What if spinach tasted like chocolate?
- ◆ What if cars could fly?

### BIRTHDAY COOKIE CAKE

*Make a birthday cookie cake with your child!*

Materials: pre-made cookie dough, fruit, baking sheet or pizza pan, non-stick cooking spray

1. Roll the cookie dough flat, like one big cookie.
2. Spray baking sheet or pizza pan with non-stick spray and place cookie dough on it.
3. Bake for 20-25 minutes at 350° F, or until the edges start to turn brown.
4. When the cookie has cooled, decorate with favorite fruit or store-bought icing.
5. Cut yourself a slice and enjoy!



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



### OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

*The Patterson Puppies and the Rainy Day* (2009), *Yummy Yucky* (2003), *No No Yes Yes* (2008), *Higher! Higher!* (2009).



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