

SPOT PARENT GUIDE

Each world within Spot lends itself to a wide array of discussion topics and potential stories for parents to share with their children. As you explore, ask questions to encourage critical thinking and observation.

From these questions, allow your child to take over and begin to set the stage for his or her own imaginative story. If your child gets stuck, help move the story along by asking more questions. Why did the aliens visit the robot world, and how did they get there? What did the robots say when they saw the aliens? Before you know it, your child will become an expert storyteller!

This guide will help you unlock the incredible world of David Wiesner's Spot and is uniquely designed to support fundamentally focused learning areas including:



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Paper to iPad. Has your child read any of David Wiesner's other books? (*Mr. Wuffles*; *Flotsam*; *Tuesday*; *The Three Pigs*; *Art & Max*; *Hurricane*; *Sector 7*; *June 29, 1999*)

- o If so, discuss the idea of art on paper versus art in technology. What does your child think of both? Do they look similar in print and on the iPad?

- o Mr. Wuffles makes a few cameos throughout the app. Have your child continue the story of *Mr. Wuffles* as he is discovered within the worlds.

- o *Flotsam* is the story of an underwater camera recording the world around it. Have your child connect Ocean World to *Flotsam*. Does Ocean World exist before or after *Flotsam*?



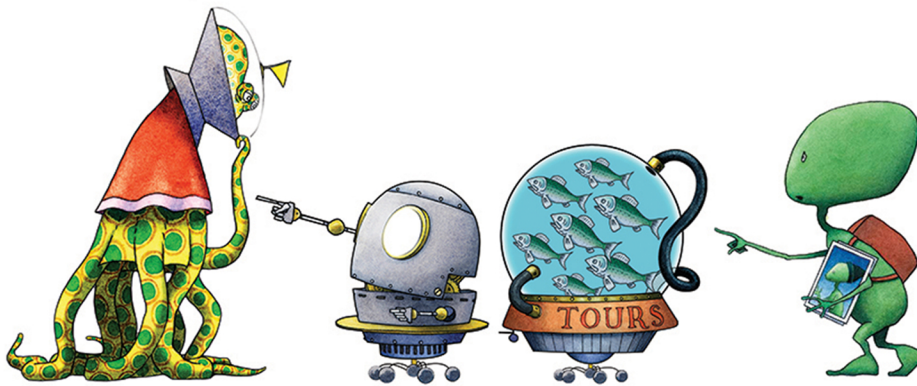
Past, Present, Future. As you visit each world, ask your child if each world exists in the past, present, or future. Ask him or her to explain why.



Ocean World. If relevant, discuss with your child your own family's interaction with the ocean. How does your child's personal experience with the ocean connect to this world? Is there anything he or she recognizes?



Robot World. Explore the robot world with your child. Discuss the idea of language and ask your child how he or she thinks the robots communicate. Do they speak in beeps? Do they speak at all? Do they have jobs? What are they? How are they the same as or different than humans?



Zoom In, Zoom Out. David Wiesner's creations teach us that things are not always what they seem. What if a basketball was a small planet and home to tiny creatures we couldn't see? What if a tiny population of aliens lived under your living room chair? Discuss the possibility of these worlds with your child.



Space Travel. In the space terminal, there is a sign displaying the transport times to different locations. Discuss with your child what each place is. Can he or she decipher which titles refer to which world? Which world would your child most like to visit?



Tiny World. Explore the tiny world with your child. Ask your child what he or she thinks is going on under your own couch in your living room. Are there dust bunnies? What do they think of the humans living in the house? Are the dust bunnies afraid of the humans, or are they friends? If the dust bunnies don't know about the humans living in the house, how do you think the bunnies might respond when they find out?



Hotspots. When you open the app, there is a desk with seemingly ordinary objects on it. However, each object actually acts as a portal to another world. Have your child tell you what would occur if he or she encountered a "hotspot" in real life. How would he or she transport to another world? What would it feel like? What is this new world like? Ask your child to choose a portal in the room. Where would it take him or her?

STORY PROMPTS



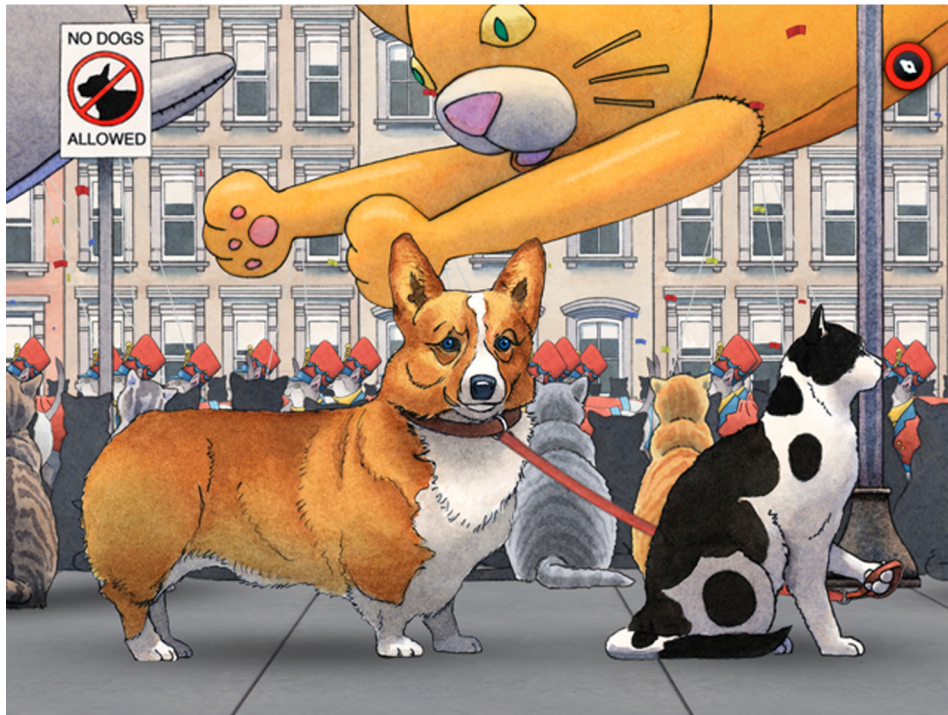
Problem Solved! Using a conflict you know your child has been facing, explore a similar situation using characters within a world. Pose a question as to how these characters should resolve their problem, and have your child tell you a story surrounding his or her answer.



Fluffy's Story. Does your child have a pet or favorite stuffed animal? Ask your child to create a story with that pet or stuffed animal as the main character, using the different worlds within the app as a setting.



Cat Parade. There is a cat parade going on! What is the story behind this? Has your child ever been to a parade? Who usually attends? Who is in this cat parade? If your child was in the cat parade, what would his or her float look like?



Alien Adventure. Aliens show up in several of the worlds. What are they doing so far from home? Are they on vacation? Did they get lost in space? Where is their home planet? Have your child tell you a story about the adventure of the aliens.

ACTIVITIES



Sea Sandwiches. In the underwater world an alien is making a jellyfish sandwich. Ask your child to create a menu for Spot. What food is eaten in each world? Perhaps jellyfish sandwiches are eaten in Underwater World, and nuts-and-bolts soup is served in Robot World. What do these foods look like?



New World. Have your child draw, sketch, or paint a world he or she would like to see added to the app. Ask your child why he or she made the choices that he/she did. Ask your child: Who might live in the world? Who might visit the world?



“Sparky” Plug. Encourage your child to explore the robot world and ask your child what he or she thinks a robot pet would look like. Have your child draw or paint this robot pet.



Comic Book. Once your child is familiar with the five worlds, have him or her select one world and draw a comic strip of that world.