

Little Birds and Big Birds

— Betty Jane Enno

This is a transition story for mixed-age kindergartens when the first graders leave to go to the grade school.

It was now springtime in the land and the Mother and Father Bird were busy each day making sure their fledgling birds were becoming stronger and ready to fly on to their new nesting grounds. They practiced flying high and flying low, how to take off and how to land on even the highest and slimmest branches. Mother and Father Bird showed them the places where the best meals could be found among the insects and the berries and the seeds and ways to find water even when it didn't rain.

Some of the very youngest birds just watched and tried to do some of the things they saw the bigger birds doing. They loved these older birds very much and were always happy when the older ones would help them learn to fly, too. But the younger birds were a little sad when they thought about the older ones flying away one day.

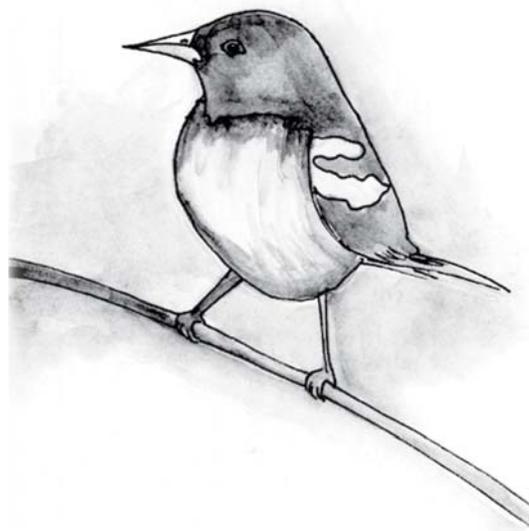
One day Mother Bird and Father Bird told the little ones that even though their older bird friends would soon be leaving they would still be able to see them. Their friends were not going far. They could see them when they flew across the sky and joined even older birds in their big nest across the meadow where they lived and worked and learned every day. The little ones were happy when Mother and Father Bird told them that one day they, too, would fly across the meadow and join their friends. So, in the meantime, the little birds practiced a song they would sing when the older birds flew away. And it goes like this:

*Go forward safely, go forward safely,
Our love will go with you, our love will go with you.*

So, on the last day, as the older birds flew away, they waved their wings and did tricks in the air for the younger birds and their hearts were filled with joy when they heard the beautiful song that the younger birds sang for them.

And today, even across the meadow, they can see the older birds busy at their work and play and they can hear the sweet songs they are singing in their new nest. ♦

Betty Jane Enno teaches kindergarten at the Austin Waldorf School in Austin, Texas, where she has been on the faculty since 1984. She serves as WECAN Regional Representative for the Southwest. This story is one of her contributions to the new WECAN collection Tell Me a Story.



Drawing by Deborah Grieder from Tell Me a Story