BOOK TITLE: Mary and Her Little Lamb
AUTHOR: Will Moses

SUMMARY OF BOOK: This beautifully painted book describes the true story behind the rhyme. Mary Sawyer was a real little girl that lived in the early 1800s in Massachusetts, and this book tells how the story and the rhyme came about.

*BETORE READING (Ask questions and use what the child already knows to add to the discussion, assisting the child in understanding and enjoying the book):

Try questions such as these:

1. Look at the cover together, talking about what things might show that the story is from hundreds of years ago: how they dress, what toys they have, etc.

2. Talk about the difference between “true” and “make believe.” If your child knows the rhyme, sing it together. Decide whether she thinks it might be true or made up.

DURING READING (ask these questions):

1. These are very rich illustrations. Take time to examine what is going on in each of them: “This is a spinning wheel. What’s the cat doing with the yarn?” “What is the mother giving the chickens?”

2. Discuss how different things were long ago: “This is a water pump. What do we have at our sink?” “What do the children use to write with in school?”

3. If you have ever had a sick animal, how did we take care of it?

4. Can you find all the animals that are hiding in the illustrations?

AFTER READING (activity to extend book experience):

1. Do you know rhymes or stories about long ago that are true? Share them with your child.

2. If your child seemed to prefer one of the pictures over the others, go back and spend extra time on it.

3. Would your pet like to have ribbons wound on her? Or come to tea parties? You might give it a try!

Compliments of:

* This activity created by students at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

For additional activities, visit www.AlaskaImaginationLibrary.org.