

Martha Calling

About the Story

Martha has won a trip to the Come-On-Inn. There's only one problem. The rule at the inn is "No pets allowed."

Special Words

allowed: If something is *allowed*, it is okay for you to do it.

permitted: *Permitted* means the same as *allowed*; it's something that is okay to do.

forbidden: Something that is *forbidden* is *not* okay to do. It is against the rules. *Forbidden* is the opposite of *allowed*.

rule: A *rule* tells you what you can do and what you are not allowed to do.

Materials

Game: Tic-Tac-Talk

Book: _____

Reading Buddies Journal

Game pieces (5 in one color and 5 in a different color)

Watch Together: "Martha Calling"

- Watch the show with your Little Buddy.
- Listen for the "special" words.
- Find a place where you and your Little Buddy can talk, play, and read together.

Talk and Play Together

Talk with your Little Buddy. Share your ideas, too.

- *There are no pets allowed at the Come-On-Inn. Does Martha's family decide to **obey** or **disobey** that **rule**? What do they do?*
- *What was your favorite part of the story?*
- *What are some of the **rules** at our school? Are pets **permitted** at our school?*

Game: Tic-Tac-Talk—Name the Rule!

This game is like Tic-Tac-Toe, but you play until all of the spaces are filled.

There is no winner or loser.

1. Give your Little Buddy five game pieces of one color. Keep five game pieces of a different color for yourself.
2. Put a game piece on a picture and tell what the rule is. Use the word **allowed**, **permitted**, or **forbidden**. For example: "No bikes **allowed**." or "Swimming is **forbidden**."
3. Now it's your Little Buddy's turn to choose a picture and say the **rule**.
4. Play the game until all of the spaces are filled.

Before meeting with your Little Buddy, work with your Big Buddy partner to:

- Read and role-play the session plan.
- Play the Tic-Tac-Talk game.
- Read the selected book aloud. Ask and answer the questions.
- Review the *Journal* activity.

Read Together

Read the story aloud. Use the special words from the *MARTHA SPEAKS* show as you talk about these questions with your Little Buddy. Share your ideas, too.

- What were the characters allowed to do in this story? What were they forbidden to do?
- Name one or two rules from the story.
- Show me your favorite picture in the book. What do you like best about it?

Write Together

- Read the directions in the Reading Buddies Journal that says, Think of a **rule**: No ____ **allowed!** Draw a picture sign to go with your **rule**.
- With your Little Buddy, make up a **rule**, something that is not **allowed**. (Your **rule** can be silly or serious.)
- Complete the page together.

A cartoon illustration of a yellow dog with a red collar sitting on a wooden bench in a park. The dog is looking towards a signpost with a 'No Dogs' sign. The sign is a white square with a black silhouette of a dog and a red circle with a diagonal slash over it. In the background, there are trees, a picnic table, and a wooden archway. A speech bubble from the dog says, "That's a silly rule!".

**That's a
silly rule!**