

Parent & Family Guide

A simple at-home companion for Under the Buttonwood Tree



Be kind.
Help others. Save with care.

Dear Family,

This guide helps you read *Under the Buttonwood Tree* at home and talk about the simple ideas Leo and Emma learn from the Buttonwood Tree: kindness, helping, saving, patience, and caring for a goal over time.

Read

Read the story slowly. Let Leo, Emma, and the Buttonwood Tree stay at the center.

Talk

Use one or two simple questions. Keep the conversation natural.

Try

Download the "My First Coin" activity from UnderTheButtonwoodTree.com and complete it together.

Or use a coin, a token, or a drawing in a safe place.

Family reminder

The goal is not the amount of money. The goal is to help children practice care, patience, and thoughtful choices.

What Children Learn



The heart of the story

Leo and Emma learn that small choices can grow. A kind action, a helpful task, a saved coin, and a patient plan can become the beginning of something meaningful.

Kindness

Choosing words and actions that help someone feel cared for.

Helping

Doing something kind or useful for someone else.

Saving

Keeping something for later instead of using it right away.

Patience

Waiting calmly while you keep trying.

Goal

Something you hope to do or have. Leo and Emma can care for a goal one step at a time.

Use this language at home:

“We can make a plan. We can keep trying. We can save with care.”

Important: Do not focus on how much money is saved. A paper coin, button, classroom token, or drawing works just as well.

Read Together at Home



Before reading

Look at the cover together. Ask: "What do you notice first?" and "What might happen under the Buttonwood Tree?"

While reading

Pause once or twice. Ask what Leo and Emma are noticing, wondering, or learning.

After reading

Ask one simple question: "What did the Buttonwood Tree teach Leo and Emma?"

Find the Squirrel

A small squirrel is hidden throughout the book. Invite children to look closely during a second reading. Ask: "Where did you notice the squirrel?" "What was it doing?"

Good family questions

- What did Leo and Emma notice?
- What did the Tree teach?
- What would you like to save for?
- Where could you keep something safe?
- How can you help others?

My First Coin Family Activity



Activity overview

Use this activity after reading the book. Children choose a coin, token, button, or drawing and connect it to a simple goal and a safe place.

1. Choose

Choose a coin, paper coin, button, or special token.

2. Goal

Draw or name one meaningful goal.

3. Safe place

Choose where the coin or token will stay safe.

4. Next step

Repeat: "I will care for my plan and add more when I can."

Family mini-plan

OUR GOAL

SAFE PLACE

NEXT STEP

Close with the book's message:

Be kind.
Help others. Save with care.