

Fun at the Pond

Key words and actions

Beaver — slap the floor

Tic Tac — "Chee Chee Chee"

Hawkeye — shade eyes with hand and look around

Rainbow — "Oh, My!" (point to the sky)

Bubbles — "Glub Glub Glub"

Rusty — "Ehhhhhh!" (like the Fonz)

Keeo — "Shiny" (brush chest)

Malak — "Whooo! Whooo!"

Wolf Cub — "Awooo. Awooo" (Wolf howl)

Magic Light — clap hands

The story

There was great excitement at the **Beaver** pond. The **Beaver** leader, Brown **Beaver**, spoke to **Tic Tac** the squirrel about the friendly humans, who were building a cottage further up the stream.

All the **Beavers** swam up the stream to see the humans so they could give these newcomers forest names. They called the human father **Hawkeye** because he had sharp eyes. They called the mother **Rainbow** because she dressed in such pretty colours. They named the girl **Bubbles** because she made bubbly sounds with her feet in the water. And they called the boy **Rusty** because of his red hair.

Then there was a big storm, with dark clouds, blustery winds, driving rain, and thunder. During the storm a **Magic Light** surrounded **Keeo**, one of the biggest young **Beavers** in the pond. He turned silver all over, and suddenly, he could talk like a human, as well as like a **Beaver**.

After the storm, the **Beavers** had to work hard together to rebuild the dam and cut food for the winter. **Tic Tac**, the squirrel, couldn't understand how and why the **Beavers** were sharing everything together. He asked the great owl **Malak** about sharing. Because sharing is such a happy way of living. "In fact," he said, "if I weren't an owl, I'd like to be a **Beaver**."

One sunny day **Rusty** and **Bubbles** came to visit a **Beaver** lodge on a raft. **Rusty** was a good swimmer and jumped into the water. He followed **Keeo** through the underwater opening to the **Beaver** lodge. **Rusty** found that the lodge was big, clean, tidy and warm inside, and so quiet he couldn't hear outside sounds. **Rusty** swam back to tell **Bubbles** all about the **Beaver** lodge and how the **Beavers** worked and played together and helped each other.

The **Beavers** also learned new things from **Rusty**, **Bubbles**, **Hawkeye** and **Rainbow**. The **Beavers** learned new games and activities, and things about nature and God. The **Beavers** and humans enjoyed making friends and learning new things from each other.

But things were going to change in the **Beaver** colony. The older **Beavers** were excited when **Keeo** told them they would soon be leaving their colony for new adventures and new friends in the forest.

The other **Beavers** watched as the older **Beavers** set out across the pond towards the forest. Suddenly, the sky darkened. Thunder rolled, as they reached the river bank, **Magic Light** struck the older **Beavers**. The **Beavers** lost their tails and their paws straightened out. Guess what? They had changed into **Wolf Cubs**!

Then out of the forest came a whole pack of **Wolf Cubs** to greet the new wolves with a grand howl. The **Wolf Cub** leader, Akela, stepped up and welcomed them into the **Wolf Cub** pack.

The **Beavers** were excited and followed the **Wolf Cubs** into the woods to explore and have many new adventures. The young **Beavers** left behind now knew that one day, they too would join the **Wolf Cub** pack. But in the meantime, there was lots to learn about being a **Beaver**.