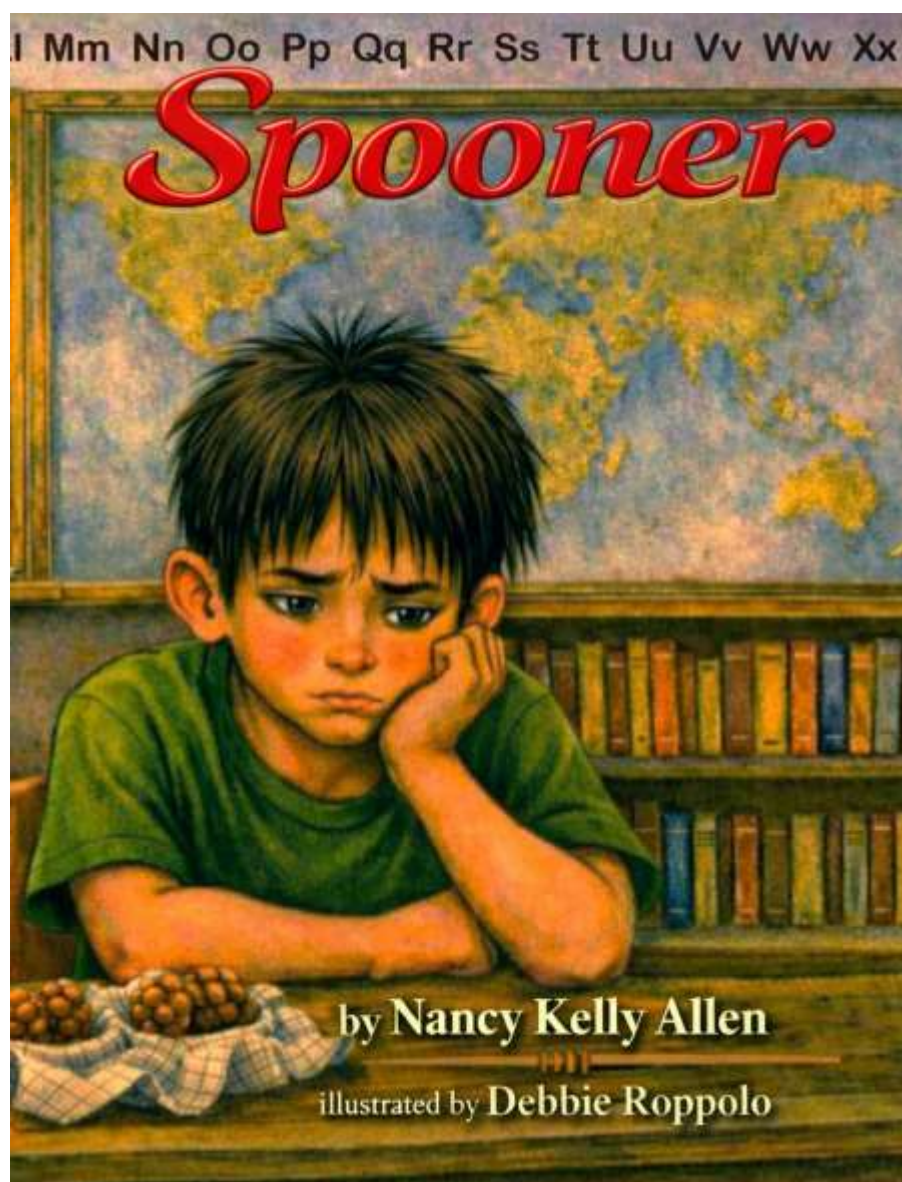


Parents' Guide



A Family Resource for Building Confidence, Kindness & Communication



Message to Parents & Caregivers

How to Use This Guide — and Why It Matters

Families play the most important role in helping children grow into confident, kind, and resilient learners. This guide is designed to help you use *Spooner* at home in simple, meaningful ways that strengthen your child’s communication skills, emotional awareness, and sense of belonging.

You can use this guide in whatever way fits your family best — a few minutes at bedtime, a conversation in the car, or a weekend activity. Each section is short, flexible, and easy to adapt for different ages.

Here’s how the guide supports you:

- **Builds connection** — The discussion questions help spark conversations that deepen trust and understanding.
- **Encourages confidence** — Activities show kids that mistakes are normal and their voice matters.
- **Promotes kindness** — The story’s themes help families talk about empathy, teasing, and how to treat others with respect.
- **Supports emotional growth** — SEL tips help children name their feelings and practice healthy responses.
- **Makes learning fun** — Wordplay games and creative projects turn reading into joyful family time.

Most importantly, this guide is here to help you celebrate your child’s strengths — their humor, their courage, their creativity, and the wonderfully unique way they express themselves. *Spooner* reminds all of us that our quirks make us special, and our voices matter even when they wobble.





Story Overview

Spooner follows Tony Spooner, a bright and big-hearted kid who sometimes mixes up his words — a family trait passed down from his cousin, William Spooner. These “spoonerisms” lead to funny moments, confusing moments, and sometimes embarrassing ones. As Tony tries to win a school trophy, he must learn to handle mistakes, stand up to teasing, and trust that his voice matters.

Why *Spooner* Matters for Kids

- **Communication confidence** — Kids learn that speaking differently is nothing to hide.
- **Kindness and empathy** — The story models how to treat classmates who struggle.
- **Bullying prevention** — Families can talk openly about teasing and how to respond.
- **Perseverance** — Tony keeps trying even when things get tough.
- **Emotional regulation** — Kids see how to handle embarrassment, frustration, and courage.



Key Themes to Explore at Home

- **Mistakes are normal** — Everyone mixes up words sometimes.
- **Finding your voice** — Tony learns to speak up even when nervous.
- **Standing up to teasing** — Families can practice safe, confident responses.
- **Celebrating differences** — Spoonerisms become part of Tony’s charm.

Family Discussion Questions

Use these to spark meaningful conversations:

- **What makes Tony brave?**



- How would you feel if you mixed up words in front of others?
- What could you say to someone who is being teased?
- Why do you think Tony wants the trophy so much?
- What makes a good friend in this story?

At-Home Activities

These activities reinforce the book’s lessons in fun, low-pressure ways:

- **Silly Spoonerism Game** — Make up funny word swaps together.
- **Confidence Jar** — Add notes about brave moments your child has.
- **Kindness Challenge** — Track small acts of kindness for a week.
- **Family Trophy Project** — Make a “Family Trophy” for effort, not perfection.
- **Feelings Check-In** — Use emojis or drawings to talk about emotions.

SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) Connections

Spooner naturally supports:

- **Self-awareness** — Recognizing feelings when mistakes happen.
- **Self-management** — Calming down after embarrassment.
- **Social awareness** — Understanding how teasing affects others.
- **Relationship skills** — Building supportive friendships.
- **Responsible decision-making** — Choosing kindness.

💛 Tips for Parents of Kids Who Mix Up Words

Many children — especially early readers — occasionally swap sounds or syllables. Here’s how to support them:

- **Stay patient and positive** — Avoid correcting harshly.



- **Model calm communication** — Show that mistakes are no big deal.
- **Celebrate effort** — Praise trying, not perfection.
- **Practice wordplay** — Games build confidence.
- **Talk about feelings** — Normalize embarrassment and courage.

Closing Encouragement for Families

Tony Spooner's journey reminds kids — and adults — that our quirks make us lovable, our mistakes make us human, and our voices matter even when they wobble. When families read *Spooner* together, they build empathy, confidence, and connection that lasts far beyond the final page.

