

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Colors

Written by Roald Dahl,
Illustrated by Quentin Blake

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

In this rollicking look at colors the author and illustrator invite us to see colors in amazing ways. The background of each page represents the color named and the illustrations and words on the page offer opportunities to find the colors all around us.

Genre: Board book

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Colors* to introduce in your classroom:

Color names	Excited
Pigs	Roly-poly
Crocodile	Hungry
Bird	Fox
Chicken	Wolf

Each time you read the book, highlight 2 or 3 words. Use age-appropriate definitions and/or refer to the illustrations to help children understand each word's meaning.

Use the new words throughout the day, reminding children, "That's a word from our story!"

Connecting with HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item Q
(*Book enjoyment and
knowledge*)

Creative Arts
Item AA
(*Pretend play*)

Science and
Technology
Item BB
(*Observing and
classifying*)

Reading Tips

This book works well with one child or a few children who are alert and active. Use the color name as the 'anchor,' but don't get stuck on the color. The pink or red or green is simply the starting point to a whole lot of fun things happening on each page. If a child or children want to stay with a page, follow the lead and invite the child to exclaim or vocalize or verbalize what is of interest. There isn't a true 'story' here, but you can always create one!

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. During each reading the adult can introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

At Group Time with Materials open the book and point to the colors on the page. Have some color pegs or bears and ask the children to find a color they like. See if they can match it to the page!

At Music and Movement Group time put on some fun 'dancing' music and offer scarves that match the colors in the book. Invite the children to move like the 'hungry, enormous crocodile' or the flying roly-poly bird' or the 'excited fox' or any other animal they choose.

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Place color bears or color cards or other materials around the room. Pay attention to when the children notice them and talk about the colors they find.

When you go outside find natural items and describe the colors you see. Talk about the 'big blue sky'.

Add some baskets to the House Area for 'treats' and 'supersnazzy' and 'fancy' dress up items.

Active Engagement

Reading with infants is all about relationship, connection, and words.

Use a questioning tone as you point to some of the illustrations or read some of the words. Make connections to things you see every day.

Draw babies in to the story with your comments, questions, and pauses.

Infants may not be able to answer questions yet, but they will quickly appreciate the 'back and forths' with books. If you have fun with the story, they will too.

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact **The Family Connection:***

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
[@famconnsjc](https://www.facebook.com/famconnsjc)

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many children in our county will have this book at home, use it to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Colors* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Roald Dahl and Quentin Blake are a dynamic team and offer a world full of adventure and fun. Invite your baby to look at the pages with you, naming the colors you see as you point to the background of the page. Name some of the characters or materials on the page that match that color. The words and illustrations are silly and invite movement. Engage with your child as you move like the animals on the page; have fun!