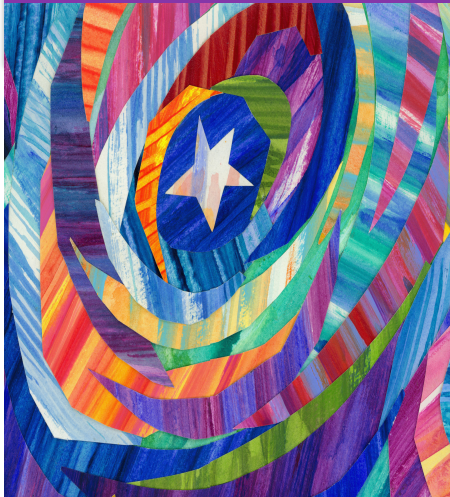


The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



Dandelion Magic

Written by Darren Farrell
Illustrated by Maya
Tatsukawa

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

When Jonah's nana says that every year, one dandelion grows that is magical, he sets out to find it to see if this is true. He follows her directions and blows the soft seeds away and then-

Genre: Picture book/fantasy

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Dandelion Magic* to introduce in your room:

magical	distract
blow	might
gust	wish

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

Social and Emotional
Development
Item D
(*Emotions*)

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

Science and
Technology Item CC
(*Experimenting,
predicting, and drawing
conclusions*), Item EE
(*Tools and technology*)

Reading Tips

Tell the children, "You will have to help me read this story! There will be lots for you to do!" Read with plenty of expression, and use the graphic elements and text to help you know when to yell, whisper, be scared or sound relieved. Over act throughout to demonstrate how Jonah is feeling in the story. At the end ask, "I wonder...are dandelions magical?" Save time for children's input- there will be plenty!

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.

Use straws and cotton balls to have “cotton ball blowing races” at **Small Group Time**.

Use the book for **Large Group Time**. With all children standing, walk around while reading and encourage the children to re-enact each part.

Cut up a whole pineapple to examine and try at **Snack Time**.

Be giant squids and dragons for **transitions**.

Around the Room

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

Use straws in the **Art Area** to experiment with “blow painting”. Have children practice “*blowing with all your might*” as well as blowing more gently. Observe how different the paintings are.

Post photos of the life cycle of a dandelion in the **House Area**.

Have water available in the **Sand and Water Area** along with boats with sails, “pirate” props and sea animals.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These “wondering aloud” questions support children’s developing focus and attention as they encourage young children’s capacity to make connections and see possibilities.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Dandelion Magic*:

If you found the magical dandelion, what would you do?

If friends were in trouble, how would you “save the day”?

How do clouds blow across the sky in a storm?

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

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 *Dandelion Magic* with their children. Here’s a sample message you can send:

The fantasy and magical nature of this story is fun to talk about as you and your child read, and re-read *Dandelion Magic* together. The book begs to be read together. Rely on the text style to help know when to read loudly. Ask, “What will happen to Jonah next?” After reading, go outside and look for dandelions. If you only see yellow ones, explain to your child, “Maybe this one will become the magical dandelion but it isn’t ready yet.” Check periodically for the “puff ball” stage and go collect some to make wishes on and blow. Model wishes like, “I wish for this to be a wonderful day with you!” While tucking your child in later make sure to say, “My wish came true!”