

The Early Years Count Literac



Full Moon Pups

Written by Liz Garton Scanlon
Illustrated by Chuck Groenink

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

It's almost time for Mama Wolf to have her pups and they will be born under a full moon. How will they be taken care of? What if there is danger?

Genre: Picture book/informational

Vocabulary

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

lunar	waxing
scooch	waning
hackles	yipping

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

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

Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Language, Literacy and
Communication Item M
*(Listening and
comprehension)*

Mathematics
Item S *(Numbers and
counting)*

Creative Arts
Item AA *(Pretend play)*

Science & Technology
Item DD
(Natural and physical world)

Reading Tips

Use the illustration/graphic elements to help guide your tone and volume as you read this story. Read in a hushed whisper during the dark, quiet of the dark night and storm, and add some anxious tone when the pack hears noises in the night. Be upbeat and fun as the pups grow and play in the sunshine. Ask open-ended questions like, "What do the pups think of the moon?" Ask the group what they know about or think of the moon. Notice with them how the moon changes as the pups grow.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to 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.

Find and play recordings of real wolf yips, howls and bays for the children at **Greeting Time**. Ask questions about what the wolves are trying to say and write down responses.

At **Large Group Time**, pretend to be wolves in the story. Encourage children to choose how to move (loping, arched backs, reach, tumble or outstretched necks) and bay, howl or yip.

Make sets of up to 10 items at **Small Group**.

Around the Room

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

Place other related books in the **Book Area**. Titles could include "Max and the tag-a-long Moon" by Floyd Cooper, "Moon Bear" by Frank Asch and "Pup and Bear" by Kate Banks.

Add blankets to the **House Area** to encourage the children to make a "den".

Have a desk lamp or some strong flashlights in the **Toy Area** for exploring shadow making.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one "right" answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Full Moon Pups*:

How do you think it makes Mama Wolf feel to have the wolf pack nearby? Why?

Why do you think the wolves howl at the moon?

When the wolves hear noises in the woods at night, what do you think made the noises?

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

As you read this book with your child, take notice of the scenery where the wolves live as well as how the moon changes in the pictures. Ask, "Why is the moon pictured differently as the pups grow?" Count the pups several times together to make sure all are still together. Ask questions about the other adult wolves like, "How are they helping?" Take note of the moon with your child from your home and try to match the "lunar cycle" with the information in the back of the book. Ask, "If it is a waxing crescent, what are the wolf pups doing?" Use the book to find the drawing of that particular moon and talk about the wolves and their activities.