

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



How to Say Hello to a Worm: A First Guide to Outside

Written and illustrated by
Kari Percival

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Join a group of children as they experience their first garden and explore the wonders of all that the garden brings- including worms!

Genre: Picture/informational

Vocabulary

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

mistakes	pod
pollen	poke
sprinkle	plant

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

Approaches to Learning
Item A (*Initiative and
planning*)

Mathematics Item S
(*Numbers and counting*)

Science & Technology
Item BB
(*Observing and classifying*)
Item DD
(*Natural and physical world*)
Item EE
(*Tools and technology*)

Reading Tips

Introduce this book by asking children to share experiences about planting, digging in soil, and bugs and insects they have seen. Feel free to pause often while reading this book, and ask children questions like, "Why is it important to be gentle with the ladybug?" During the reading, have the children imitate poking, planting, pouring and stirring. Then pretend to pull out the biggest carrot ever. Provide time for the children to respond to the questions posed in the book. This can be read over several installments!

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.

Children at **Small Group** get a pan with clean, moist soil, a small trowel, magnifying glass, small stones and bugs from the classroom collection. Encourage exploration, discovery and story telling.

Make a list of the vegetables and insects from the story. Ask questions at **Greeting Time** for the children to comment, tell a story or share ideas on how they feel about these things. Example, "Who has had a bee land on them? What did you do?"

Around the Room

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

Place soil, small rakes, trowels and watering cans in the **Sand and Water Area** for children to explore and make mud and rivers at Work Time.

Place other relevant Imagination Library books in the **Book Area** for comparison and extended learning. Include, "The Little Gardener" by Jan Gerardi, "Carl and the Meaning of Life" by Deborah Freedman and "Green Tractor" by Kersten Hamilton.

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 *How to Say Hello to a Worm*:

What would you say to a worm you find in your garden?

What would you grow in your garden?

How do the pea vines know how to climb?

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 *How to Say Hello to a Worm* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

As you read this book with your child, stop often to discuss the questions in the story. "How DO you say hello to a ladybug?" Take time on each page to talk about what the children are doing. Maybe plan a simple container garden for the windowsill or front stoop. This could be in a milk carton cut long-way and filled with soil. Collect seeds from your child's favorite fruit or vegetable to plant. Say, "Let's do what the kids in the book do- stick your finger in the dirt, drop a seed in, give it a drink and tuck it in!" On walks, look for bugs to listen to and just observe. Ask your child, "What is he doing?"