

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



The Tale of Peter Rabbit

Written and illustrated by
Beatrix Potter

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Peter is the naughty little bunny of Mrs. Rabbit. Peter has three sisters, Flopsy, Mopsy and Cottontail. They listen to their mother and don't get into trouble. Peter does not listen to his mother and gets into lots of trouble with Mr. McGregor. Although Peter has a tremendous adventure, he ends up losing his little blue coat and getting a terrible tummy ache! No berries and cream for Peter.

Genre: Fiction

Vocabulary

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

thief	sob
sieve	intended
upset	tremble
damp	hoe

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

Social and Emotional
Development
Item D (*Emotions*)

Physical Development
and Health
Item K (*Personal care
and healthy behavior*)

Science and Technology
Item DD (*Natural and
physical world*)
Item EE (*Tools and
technology*)

Social Studies
Item GG (*Geography*)

Reading Tips

This is an exciting story! Use tone, gestures and body language to help illustrate the adventure and perils that Peter puts himself through. Ask questions between sections such as, "What do you think will happen to Peter now?" "What's his Mommy going to say?" "Do you remember what happened to Peter's father?" "What was it Peter's mother said?"

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."

At the end of each reading, display the book in the book area so children can read it on their own.

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 **Small Group Time** for vegetable tasting and comparing, using the vegetables that Peter ate out of Mr. McGregor's garden. Provide magnifying glasses for children to examine the vegetables. Chart the taste-test results.

Transition children by asking them to choose how Peter might get to Work Time or the bathroom.

Have stuffed animals in the House Area for children to dress up at **Work Time**.

Around the Room

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

Add seed and garden catalogs to the **Art Area**.

Place sieves in the **Sand and Water Area**.

Include other stories with gardens in the **Book Area** such as *Sophie's Squash* by Pat Zietlow Miller and *My Garden* by Kevin Henkes.

Have a collection of "mommies and babies" in the animal basket in the **Block Area**.

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 *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*:

Why didn't Peter do what his mother told him to do?

Where was Peter's other coat and pair of shoes?

How could Peter remember where the garden gate was?

Why wasn't Mr. McGregor upset the white cat was there?

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 *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

The Tale of Peter Rabbit is a classic book that we have been enjoying so much in the classroom. While reading this book at home, ask questions like, "Look how hard Mr. McGregor is working in his garden. Is it okay for Peter to be there? Why is Mr. McGregor so angry to see Peter?" Talk about how it would feel to you and your child if someone, even a cute bunny, stole something from you. If possible, even in a small flowerpot, plant some carrots or other easy growing vegetables (lettuce and radishes come up fast!). Invite your child to pretend to be Peter Rabbit while eating vegetables.