

# The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



## I Wonder

Written by K.A. Holt  
Illustrated by Kenard Pak

*Preschool edition*

### Overview of Book

The whimsical artwork and whimsical questions in this book offer up lots of “wonderings” to contemplate. Children not only have active imaginations and an abundance of curiosity, but also endless questions. While some might have answers, some only make us wonder.

Genre: Picture Book

### Vocabulary

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

wonder	galaxy
shadow	afraid
dog-paddle	

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*)

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

Science & Technology  
Item BB  
(*Observing and classifying*),  
Item DD  
(*Natural and physical world*)

### Reading Tips

This is a lovely, slow read with one child or a small group, but with a whole group, take the time to meander through this book, read and discuss a few “I wonder” questions at a time. Consider writing children’s responses to the questions and statements posed in the book. For example, after the “shadow” wonder ask, “What does he mean? Who can explain this?”

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.

For **Small Group Time**, combine unlikely materials for the children to explore and wonder what will happen if...

Start a morning routine at **Greeting Time** by asking one question from the book and writing everyone's responses.

Bring a large supply of bubbles along for **Outside Time**. Encourage the children to follow them and see if they tickle where they land.

### **Around the Room**

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

Collect broken clocks and set them out with real tools on trays in the **Toy Area** for children to take apart and see how they work.

In the **Book Area**, add books for children to use to help answer some of the wonder questions. For example, information books about ocean animals, insects, the solar system, life cycles and Earth science. Put up a poster that keeps a list of "I wonder..." questions from the children.

### **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 *I Wonder*:

I wonder what our dress up clothes would say if they could talk.

I wonder what would happen if our room turned upside down.

What do you wonder about?

What is your favorite wonder in the book? Why?

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

website—  
[www.famconn.org](http://www.famconn.org)

Facebook—  
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### **@ 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 *I Wonder* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

*I Wonder* is filled with such imaginative questions! While reading this book with your child, use each page as a conversation starter. Give time for your child to think about the question and share their ideas. Young children have limited knowledge of the world and how things work, so your child may express ideas that are quite fantastic. For example, your child may believe objects like sneakers or cereal have feelings. Ask follow up questions like, "How do you know?" Throughout the day, share "I wonder..." questions such as, "How did this view know to be by your window?" or, "How did the lines get on the sidewalk?" And by all means, invite your child to be curious too.