

# The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



## Tad and Dad

Written and illustrated by  
David Ezra Stein

*Infant/Toddler edition*

### Overview of Book

Follow the adventures of Tad and his Dad. As Tad grows and gains new skills and size, his Dad cheers him on. Life on the lily pad is busy, especially when Dad tries to sleep! Tad and Dad find ways to be together, no matter what.

Genre: Fictional narrative

### Vocabulary

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

Heights	Jumper
Pond	Splash
Feast	Croaking
Hubbub	Ruckus

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 E  
(Building relationships  
with adults)

Science and  
Technology Item DD  
(Natural and physical  
world)

Social Studies  
Item FF (*Knowledge of  
self*)

### Reading Tips

Allow some time to enjoy the illustrations in this rollicking story of a young one and his dad. There are lots of opportunities for movement and for celebrations of growth and new skills. Talk with the children about times when they've learned something new—how did it feel, who helped them learn it. This book could work with a small group of children or one on one as a lapsit.

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.

For Music and Movement Group Time invite the children to move like Tad—hopping, jumping, splashing around. Invite 'singing' too—how does it sound to sing like a frog? Use carpet squares as 'lily pads' and invite the children to move from one to another or to try to stay close together on one! Transition out by moving like Tad or his Dad.

For Small Group have some small mirrors and ask the children who they see. Talk with them about growing bigger and about all the new skills they are learning.

### Around the Room

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

In the Block Area or Toy Area add families—match pairs of animals or small toys so that children can play out how it feels to try out leaving the 'lily pad' and coming back. Include beanbags as places for the families to 'land.'

Display photos of tadpoles and frogs, in ponds, on lily pads, in meadows.

Add books about the lifecycle of frogs.

Include pillows and blankets in the House Area as places to 'dads' and little ones to sleep.

### 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 *Tad and Dad*:

Who helps you fall asleep at night?

What places would you like to hop to?

Tad and his Dad feast on flies. What do you like to feast on?

Tad's Dad gets a little frustrated with Tad when he can't sleep.

What do you do when you feel frustrated?

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

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

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### @ 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 *Tad and Dad* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Tad and his Dad share many adventures as Tad grows and gains new skills. Share the delightful story and talk with your child about all the ways he or she is growing. Play hide and seek and enjoy the many times your child will hide in the same place (and expect that you will be surprised each time!). The story might be a bit long for a young toddler, so take it in small bits, a few pages at a time. Point out the emotions depicted on each page. Describe what the characters might be feeling and wonder aloud what created that feeling. Dad loves Tad no matter what!