

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Little Dog Lost

Written and illustrated by
Monica Camesi

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

A little dog is stranded on a block of ice headed out to sea! Who will help him? Will he be rescued in time?

This is a true story of a dog's extraordinary adventure (with a very happy ending).

Genre: Non-fiction, picture book

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Little Dog Lost* to introduce in your room:

adrift	current
crew	aboard
brave	lost
floating	paddles

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

Approaches to
Learning
Item A
(Initiative and planning)

Social and Emotional
Development
Item D
(Emotions)

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

Social Studies
Item GG

Reading Tips

Let the children know this is a true story. Show the children the map on the inside cover and trace the route Baltic took before being rescued. While reading, ask questions like, "Why did he go into the river?" or, "What are the people thinking as they watch him float away?" Ask the children how they feel at different parts of the story. Read the story with a worried tone and then relief at the end. Return to the map again and discuss Baltic's journey.

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.

Make maps of the classroom for children to use for **Planning and Recall Time**.

Use ice cubes in individual pans of water with counting bears or other objects for **Small Group Time**. Encourage children to re-tell the story as they manipulate the materials.

Make pretend ice floes with blocks for children to walk across and balance on or act out the story at **Large Group Time**.

Around the Room

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

Include another Imagination Library book, *Pup and Bear* by Kate Banks in the **Book Area**. Compare this with *Little Dog Lost*.

Add maps to the **Block Area**.

Add a variety of materials at the **Art Area** to encourage creating rescue items. Use the book to show the ropes and nets that are used in the story.

Post pictures of the children's pets from home in the **House Area**.

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 *Little Dog Lost*:

Why do you think Baltic went to the river?

How would you have tried to rescue Baltic?

What would you do if you were stranded on the ice?

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](https://www.facebook.com/famconnsjc)

phone—
574-237-9740

@ 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 *Little Dog Lost* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Little Dog Lost is a true story that is a wonderful way to talk about feelings with your child. How does the dog feel at different parts of the journey? Ask your child to explain how they think the dog got into the predicament in the first place and how they might help rescue him. Ask your child to show you or tell you their favorite parts of the story. Examine the map together as well. Compare it to any other map you may have on hand. Look for rivers, large bodies of water, cities and other landmarks.