

The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



If I were a Kangaroo

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Infant/Toddler edition
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Overview of Book

It's time for sleep, and this fun-to-read rhyming tale envisions the bedtime rituals of animals from whales and otters to squirrels and gorillas. Even more, it's filled with information about how different animals go to sleep. So curl up, imagine your favorite animal and.....zzzzzzzz.

Genre: Fiction

Vocabulary

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

pocket
rustling
cuddle
lullaby

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

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item N
(Phonological awareness)

Social Studies
Item FF
(Knowledge of self and
others)

Mathematics
Item S
(Number and Counting)

Reading Tips

Have the children bring a stuffed animal or baby doll to the carpet to hold and snuggle with as you read the story.

While reading, place an emphasis on words that rhyme so the children notice the ending sounds of the words. Point out that "these words rhyme; they sound the same at the end."

When the author says, "I'll count your fingers and your toes," have the children count their fingers and toes with you.

Tap your nose when the author says, "And kiss you gently on your nose." Ask the children to touch their noses.

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.

During **transitions**, have the children move like the different animals in the book (swim like a whale, hop like a kangaroo...).

At **quiet time**, let the children lay down with a stuffed animal to cuddle.

At **group time** let the children choose how to lead others in moving like their favorite animals.

At **choice time**, provide props for acting out favorite parts of the story.

Around the Room

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

In the **House Area** put aprons with pockets for the children to put things in. Add cloth or pieces of fabric for the children to use as blankets for babies.

In the **Water table** put different sizes of fish.

In the **Block Area**, put out a basket of animal families.

Put *If I were a Kangaroo* on display in the book area so the children can easily find it on their own.

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 *If I were a Kangaroo*:

Which animal would you like to be? Why?

What is your favorite way to spend time with a member of your family?

What helps you fall asleep?

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 *If I were a Kangaroo* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

If I were a Kangaroo is a delightful rhyming book that tells about the "bedtime rituals" of all sorts of animals. Cuddle up with your child on your lap and make eye contact as you read. On some pages, you might ask your child to point out things in the pictures and talk about them. At other readings, consider asking questions about the story. "What are the mama and her baby doing in this picture?" Pause and give time for your child to respond. Leave room for your child to make things up and then tell a story together.