

The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



I Love You, Spot

Written and Illustrated by
Eric Hill

Infant/Toddler edition
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Overview of Book

The heart-shape of the book gives away its focus: it's Valentine's Day and Spot wants to make something special for his mom. Spot works hard on his gift and his mom makes some cookies for them to share. It's a simple story about ways to say "I love you."

Genre: Fiction/Picture book

Vocabulary

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

- scissors
- surprise
- special
- watercolor paints

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)

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item Q
(Book enjoyment and
knowledge)

Item P
(Reading)

Reading Tips

The simple illustrations provide different scenes and objects to discuss and describe.

Spot asks his mom her favorite color, so think about how to incorporate that idea into your conversation.

If the children and families celebrate Valentine's day, this book would be a natural connection between home and school.

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.

Talk about “special surprises” throughout the day—how can you say “I love you” to each other? Model for the children some ways to use your face, your hands, your body, your words to say “I love you”.

How do you celebrate each other?

Use **group time** to create “special surprises” for someone.

Around the Room

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

Hide hearts throughout the room and have fun finding them together with the children.

Use classroom mirrors to say “I love you” to each other.

Put *I Love You, Spot* 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 *I Love You, Spot*:

What do you think Spot wants to make?

Why does Spot want to know his mom's favorite color?

What do you think Spot will look for outside?

What do you like to paint?

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 *I Love You, Spot* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

There are many ways to say “I love you.” In *I Love You, Spot*, Spot and his mom spend some time together, each sharing some special gifts. How do you share special time together with your child? You can use this book to spark ideas about how to show your love for each other. As you cuddle together reading, as you splash in the bath, as you roll a ball to each other, as you sing and dance to your favorite song you show your love.