

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Daniel's Good Day

Written and illustrated by
Micha Archer

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

People always say, "Have a good day!" Daniel wants to know what that means. As he walks through his neighborhood on his way to his grandma's house, he gathers ideas from all the different people he meets. When he heads back home at the end of the day, he's pretty sure he has his answer.

Genre: Picture book/fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Daniel's Good Day* to introduce in your classroom:

neighborhood	perfect
steady	gardener
newsstand	nanny
crossing guard	baker

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

Approaches to Learning
Item A
(Initiative and planning)

Item C
(Reflection)

Social and Emotional
Development
Item D
(Emotions)

Social Studies
Item FF
(Knowledge of self
and others)

Reading Tips

Take a "book walk" with the children before reading. Ask questions like, "Where does Daniel live?" and, "How can you tell?" When reading Daniel's lines, use a tone of excitement and wonder to convey his authentic interest in the important question, "What makes a good day?" Talk about the people, their occupations, and why they answer the way that they do.

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.

At **Large Group Time**, have the children choose an occupation in the story to act out and have the other children imitate. "Let's all be bakers like Joey! Look how he kneads the dough—back and forth, back and forth!"

Bring kites, baby dolls, a blanket, gardening tools, paintbrushes, and water to the playground at **Outside Time**. Refer to the occupations in the story as children use the props.

Around the Room

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

Add dress up and props in the **House Area** for children to act out the occupations in the story. Create a post office or a bakery.

Place soil and trowels in the **Sand and Water Area** for pretend gardening. Or plant a real garden in the **Outside Area**.

Add wood in the **Art Area** and encourage children to build and create. Encourage them paint like the housepainter in the story. Add big brushes and paint rollers.

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 *Daniel's Good Day*:

What makes a good day for you? Why?

If you and Daniel were friends, what would you like to do together?

What could you do to help someone have a good day?

What do you think would make a good day for a dog or cat?

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

phone—
574-237-9740

@ 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 *Daniel's Good Day* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

The children have enjoyed reading *Daniel's Good Day* and talking about Daniel's quest to learn what makes others have a good day. As you read this book with your child, linger on the pages to explore the pictures. Ask questions like, "What is happening on this page? Where are all the people going?" Share with your child the small things that brighten your day and find out what makes a good day for your child. Help your child write a note or draw a picture for a family or community member to help make their day a good day.