

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



**Red House Tree
House Little Bitty
Brown Mouse**

Written by Jane Godwin
Illustrated by Blanca Gomez

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

The little bitty brown mouse packs a suitcase and goes on an adventure. So many things to notice, items to count, and colors to learn, all guided by gentle rhymes. Can you find the little bitty brown mouse on each of the pages?

Genre: Picture book/poetry and verse

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Red House Tree House Little Bitty Brown Mouse* to introduce in your room:

color names	sparkle
petals	floppy
zooming	darting
gigantic	drifting

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 B (*Problem solving
with materials*)

Social and Emotional
Development

Item G
(*Community*)

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item N (*Phonological
awareness*)

Math
Item S (*Number and
counting*)

Reading Tips

Read this to the children with a slow and steady beat to emphasize the rhymes. Give time for the children to fill in the last word to complete the rhymes. Take the time to wonder and have the children answer the questions the mouse asks of us. Linger over the pages and look for the things the mouse has noticed. Ask the children, "Where is the little, bitty brown mouse on this page?"

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.

Have children count and sort counting bears (or any counters) by size and/or color at **Small Group Time**.

Use magnifying glasses to examine flowers at **Small Group** and/or **Outside Time**.

Have children match and pair up socks before **Planning** and **Recall Time**.

Pretend to be riding in a hot-air balloon, helicopter, train or a boat during **Transitions**.

Around the Room

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

Have boats and ocean animals in the **Sand and Water Area**.

Have similar rhyming books in the **Book Area**. Include *One Fish, Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish* and *Go, Dog, Go!*

Add more trains, people and animals (even a little bitty brown mouse!) to the **Block Area**.

Have red, yellow, green and blue paint available in the **Art Area**. Encourage color mixing and experimenting.

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 *Red House Tree House Little Bitty Brown Mouse*:

Of all the places Mouse goes in the story, where is your favorite? Why?

Where would you go if you and Mouse could travel together?

Would you like to ride on a bike, a scooter, or a train? Why?

*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 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 *Red House Tree House Little Bitty Brown Mouse* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

The mouse in *Red House Tree House Little Bitty Brown Mouse* goes on an adventure, but many places he sees and is excited about are close to home. As you read this book with your child, talk about the places you go and the people and things you see along the way. On walks, or on car or bus rides, notice the things like the mouse does in the story. Play "I Spy" and name or count people, animals, or objects with a descriptor like, "I spy a tall man wearing a blue hat." Encourage your child to try. Use fun words like polka dots, argyle, or zig-zag to describe patterns.