

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Hair Love

Written by Matthew A. Cherry
Illustrated by Vashti Harrison

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

On this extra special day, Zuri needs the perfect hairstyle. It isn't going to be easy, but she remains persistent. So does her daddy, who does his very best to help. Love, caring, patience, support, individuality, determination and humor all have a strong presence in this beautifully illustrated story.

Genre: Picture book/Realistic fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Hair Love* to introduce in your classroom:

coils	approved
presto	special
professional	beamed

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 B
(Problem solving with materials)

Physical Development
and Health
Item K
(Personal care and healthy behavior)

Social Studies
Item FF (Knowledge of self and others)

Reading Tips

Zuri and her daddy both have voices in the story, so consider using voices that distinguish them. Notice how Zuri's emotions change during the read aloud and reflect this in your tone and volume. Ask questions like, "What is Zuri going to do?" Tell the children to look for clues that might help them figure out why this is a special day for Zuri. You might share a hint: "Look—a banner that says, 'Welcome Home, Mommy.' I wonder where Mommy was?"

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.

Provide a supply of hairpins and barrettes to measure various classroom materials at **Small Group Time**.

Use several long pieces of rope or thick yarn at **Greeting** or as part of **Large Group Time**. Have children hold ends across one another and twist, coil or try to braid.

At **Work Time**, use an i-Pad or phone to record children giving a "how-to" tutorial on hair styling or any other topic they'd like to share.

Around the Room

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

Create a hair salon in the **House Area**. Add hair magazines, hand mirrors, enough brushes and/or combs for individual use, curlers and hair dryers.

Take and post photos of the children's hair styles for the salon.

Have an ample supply of play-doh and a range of tools for the children to tease, coil and create in the **Art Area**.

Add other hair books to the **Book Area** such as *I Love My Hair!* by Natasha Tarpley and *The Hair Book* by Graham

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 *Hair Love*:

Why do you think Zuri's hair needed to be perfect?

Who helps you with your hair at home?

How would you style your hair if you could do it any way in the whole world?

What makes you feel like a superhero?

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 *Hair Love* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

While reading this book with your child, notice together how Zuri recalls all the things her daddy does to make her hair just right. Stand together in front of a mirror and try all the hairstyles Zuri and her daddy come up with. Add new items like scarves or headbands and invent new styles. When Zuri's hair was in braids and beads, she felt like a princess. Have your child imagine what role each invented hairstyle suggests. Read the story again and notice how all this was to look just right for Zuri's mommy. Talk together about how you and your family may help one another out, just like at school the teacher and children do special things for one another.