

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Ladybug Girl and the Rescue Dogs

Written and illustrated
by David Soman and
Jacky Davis

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

While at the farmer's market, Ladybug Girl and the rest of the Bug Squad want to help find forever homes for some rescue dogs. The grown ups can't seem to get people to notice the "adopt a dog" booth. Can the Bug Squad do what the adults can't?

Genre: Picture book/fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Ladybug Girl and the Rescue Dogs* to introduce in your classroom:

notice	forever
adopt	amount
volunteer	mission

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*)

Social and Emotional
Development

Item D (*Emotions*)

Item E (*Building relationships with adults*)

Item F (*Building relationships with other children*)

Creative Arts
Item AA (*Pretend play*)

Reading Tips

When reading Lulu's lines, take care to use her dialogue to showcase what she is: curious, empathetic and kind. As the story moves ahead, use a tone that reflects Lulu's urgency and desire to find good forever homes for the rescue dogs. As you read, ask the children questions like, "What would you 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.

During **transitions**, encourage children to move like bugs or dogs.

At **Small Group Time**, provide manipulatives and pictures of animals and bugs for the children to sort by various attributes.

At **Large Group Time**, encourage children to move like bugs in a circle. Change direction and all pretend to become dogs.

Around the Room

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

Provide bug related dress-up clothes and props in the **House Area**.

Add stuffed dogs and other animals in the **House Area** for the children to play with and take care of.

Place other related books in the **Book Area**. Examples include *How Dinosaurs Love Their Pets* by Jane Yolen and *The Pigeon Wants a Puppy* by Mo Willems.

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 *Ladybug Girl and the Rescue Dogs*:

Why do the dogs need to be adopted?

Which one of the rescue dogs would you want? Why?

Have you ever taken care of a dog or pet? How did you do it?

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 this book with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

As you read *Ladybug Girl and the Rescue Dogs* with your child, ask questions like, "What will Lulu do?" or, "How would you solve this problem?" Notice together the differences and similarities of all the dogs. You might ask, "If you could have one of the dogs here, which one would you pick?" "Why?" You could also talk about all that goes into taking care of a family pet. If you do have—or are considering getting—a family pet, very young children want and can do some supervised caregiving. Consider giving a choice to your child like adding fresh water (like Lulu does) or gathering your pet's favorite toys. If your child already helps here, add an extra bit of responsibility.