

The  
Early Years Count  
**Literacy**  
Connection



**“Slowly, slowly,  
slowly,” said the  
sloth**

Eric Carle

*Infant/Toddler edition*

### Overview of Book

Eric Carle does it again. This oversized picture book includes his signature beautifully designed and colored collages. Each page has the sloth along with other animals found in jungles. The back page includes the names of each of these animals, many of which will likely be unfamiliar. Perhaps the best part though is the opportunity to highlight characteristics that make each of us special and unique.

Genre: Picture book

### Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Each page of “*Slowly, slowly, slowly,*” said the sloth includes fascinating animals and interesting words. Choose those that are important to the children in your classroom: Animal names, including sloth  
Slowly, Upside down  
Boring, lazy  
Any of the descriptive words on the last page!

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

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

Social Studies  
Item FF  
(Knowledge of self and  
others)

Science and  
Technology  
Item DD  
(Natural and physical  
world)

### Reading Tips

This book deserves some lingering over. Children may well want to spend time exploring the colors and animals on each page. The animals will likely be new to children and it will be fun to name them. As children are ready you could also invite them to consider all of the many things that make each of them special, to cherish those differences.

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.

This book would be a perfect accompaniment to movement group time as you invite the children to move like their favorite animal from the story or ask them to move as slowly as the sloth.

Offer various types of paper at group time and invite children to tear or cut the paper and then glue it to make their own collages.

At outside time talk about how the sloth hung 'upside down' and see if they can make their bodies upside down!

### **Around the Room**

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

Bring out the bins of animals and blocks and invite the children to create their own habitats for the animals.

Add tissue paper or other varieties of paper to the Art Area. Have the glue ready to create collages.

Find photos of new and rare animals, laminate them and add them to the Block or Toy Areas.

Bring out mirrors and invite the children to describe themselves, helping them identify what makes them special!

### **Active Engagement**

Reading with infants and toddlers is all about relationship, connection, and words.

Vary your tone to match the actions of the animals as you point to the illustrations and read the words. Changing your voice tone to match the animals' actions emphasizes what those words mean.

Toddlers may want to move their bodies as you read, take the time to do that. This is a book that will invite many retellings.

With older toddlers, talk about how the sloth responded to words that might have been hurtful. He found a way to feel proud of who he is!

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact **The Family Connection:***

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[www.famconn.org](http://www.famconn.org)

Facebook—  
[@famconnsjc](https://www.facebook.com/famconnsjc)

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### **@ 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 Eric Carle's "Slowly, slowly, slowly, said the sloth with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

You may have already introduced your child to one of the many lovely Eric Carle books so this one will be another treasure. Take your time and move slowly, inviting your child to linger over the lovely colors and illustrations on each page. The names of each of the animals pictured is included at the end of the book so you can identify them for your child. These are new and fun to say. The words of the story are straightforward and yet powerful: we are all unique and special!