

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



**Learning with
Llama Llama:
Shapes**

Illustrations by J. T. Morrow,
based on characters
created by Anna Dewdney

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

Llama Llama and his mama are on a mission to find ingredients for a special dinner. Mama helps Llama Llama to see that shapes are everywhere. They spend a fun time together gathering the ingredients they need as they also see the shapes all around them.

Genre: Board Book

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. There are basic shape names on every page along with scenes from a farmers market. Choose those that are important to the children in your classroom:

Shape names: rectangle,
square, triangle, circle, star
Farmers Market
Carrots, grapes
Umbrella

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 A
*(Initiative and
planning)*

Social and Emotional
Development
Item E
*(Building relationships with
adults)*

Mathematics
Item T
*(Geometry: Shapes and
spatial awareness)*

Reading Tips

It's tempting to turn this book into a 'quiz' on 'what shape is that,' but avoid doing so in favor of doing what Llama Llama's mother does: simply find the shapes around you. Each page has invitations to consider what Llama Llama sees and that includes shapes hidden in all of the marvelous things there are to see at a Farmers Market.

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.

Group times would be a natural time to engage with this story. After reading the book you might go on a shape hunt in your classroom or do a freeze dance and stop on different shapes or invite the children to make 'shapes' with their own bodies!

If you read this book at a meal time, talk about times when the children made meals with their families; what ingredients did they need, where did they find what they needed...

Around the Room

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

Bring out the shape sorters in the Toy Area and talk with the children about any of the shapes that match those in the story.

Find the bins of play food in the House Area and 'make a special dinner.' Have bags or baskets to gather ingredients.

Have some plush animals or puppets out to re-tell the story together.

Have shapes in the Writing Area or Art Area to trace or copy with various writing tools.

Active Engagement

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

Take your time, matching the children's pace and interest as they look at the illustrations on each page.

Use your finger to sweep over the outline of each shape. As you name the shape describe the attributes: 'this is a square, squares have 4 sides connected at the corners...'

Invite toddlers to guess what they think Llama Llama and his mama are going to make for dinner as they gather the ingredients.

*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 *Learning with Llama Llama Shapes* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Math is everywhere and infants and toddlers are interested to know more! Mathematize your day together, using a book like this one as a launching pad to find shapes around you. Read the book, finding the shapes on each page with Llama Llama and his mama, and then go and find the shapes at your house and everywhere you go. Talk with your child as you cook, naming the ingredients you are using, describing their tastes, colors, shapes. Finding the opportunities in the everyday is such an enjoyable way to learn.