

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



Gift & Box

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Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Gift and Box take a journey together from Grandma to her Granddaughter that has them on a ship, in a truck, on a conveyer belt and a taxi! How will they ever make it? And will Gift be OK?

Genre: Picture

Vocabulary

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

fragile	journey
purpose	dazzle
challenging	protect

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

Creative Arts item AA
(Pretend play)

Language, Literacy and
Communication Item N
(Phonological awareness)

Social Studies Item FF
(Knowledge of self and
others), Item GG
(Geography)

Reading Tips

A "book walk" might be a way to do the first read. Begin by asking the group, "Who has ever gotten a package in the mail?" Tell the children the book is about how a gift inside a box gets to you. "The gift and the box are telling the story!" Ask questions about the transportation and what it might feel like to be gift and box at different times in the story. Then when you read it, refer back to the children's comments about what is happening. Ask the group their thoughts about the journey the package made.

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."

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 the children explore tape at **Small Group Time**. Have manageable size squares of brown paper or newsprint and small boxes to try and wrap. Have a variety of tape to compare.

Encourage creative uses for extra large boxes at **Work Time**.

Pretend to be ships, airplanes and trucks at **Large Group Time**. Ask, "How else can a package be delivered? Move like that too."

Around the Room

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

Create a post office in the **House Area**. Add small boxes, brown wrapping paper and tape to the **Art Area** to make into packages to drop off at the classroom Post office.

Add other books to the **Book Area** that relate. Examples include, "Ten Thank-you Letters" by Daniel Kirk and "The Giant Hug" by Sandra Horning.

Add large empty boxes to the **Block Area**.

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 *Gift & Box*:

Why do you think the package had to go on a ship?

How did the grandmother know the girl would like the toy giraffe?

What would you do if you had a big empty box?

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 *Gift & Box* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

As you and your child read this book together, marvel at the journey the package makes! Ask, "Now where is it going?" and, "How come package has to go on that big ship?" Talk about how nervous Gift is and how confident Box is. Gift is sad because it's paper gets torn. Ask, "Why is Gift so upset here?" Later when the child opens Gift, she is happy. Ask, "Is Gift happy now? Why do you think so?" Talk with your child about the thought the grandmother put in to choosing and sending this gift to the little girl. Talk about how it feels to be the giver as well as the receiver of gifts. Take your child to the Post Office on an errand to see what is there. Compare to what is in the book.