

The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



Llama Llama Meets the Babysitter

An Anna Dewdney book

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

Llama Llama must get used to the idea that his mom is going out and a babysitter is going to take care of him. Llama is not pleased about this arrangement at all. Will it all work out?

Genre: Picture Book

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Llama Llama Meets the Babysitter* to introduce in your room:

fret
worry
beams

moan
babysitter
scoop

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

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

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item N (*Phonological awareness*)

Reading Tips

Ask the children if they have heard the term "babysitter" and to share what they think it means. While reading, stop to talk about how Llama feels throughout the story. Ask the children how they feel, and try to predict what will happen next. Note the rhyming words. Pause to encourage the children to fill in the rhyme. Several readings will help children understand this story, and how and why sometimes they need a babysitter.

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.

Have an ice cream topping taste test at **Group Time**. Chart the results of who likes/doesn't like what Llama and the babysitter have: chocolate, pineapple, hot fudge, cherries, sprinkles or vanilla.

Bring balls to **Outside Time** and play like Llama Llama. "Jump up and down, kick the ball and run around"!

Around the Room

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

Create an ice cream shop in the **House Area**. Add props like scoops, pretty sundae dishes, aprons and pretend ice cream.

Add dirt and trowels in the **Sand and Water Area** for pretend gardening.

Add "The Little Excavator" also by Ana Dewdney to the **Book Area**. Note that it is Llama Llama's favorite book.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These "wondering aloud" questions support children's developing focus and attention as they encourage young children's capacity to make connections and see possibilities.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Llama Llama Meets the Babysitter*:

What things do you and your babysitter do together?

Who would you want to babysit you? Why?

*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

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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 *Llama Llama Meets the Babysitter* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Use this story as an opportunity to open a conversation with your child about their feelings when left with a babysitter, and their feelings any time you and your child are apart. Read the story in a steady, encouraging tone that mirrors Llama's mom. Llama's mom offers comfort in the story ("She'll take good care of you.") but Llama still gets very upset. Remind your child that all feelings are ok, and the important part is to talk about them and have trust in the people who love you. Ask your child to tell you how the end of the story made them feel and why. Then have ice cream.