

The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



**My first bilingual
farm/la granja**

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

This board book invites young children to visit a farm, meet some animals and a friendly farmer and to learn vocabulary in English and Spanish. You can introduce children to life on a farm, including equipment, farm produce and animal families. Toward the end of the book there are 'categories' of farm-related concepts: colors, sounds, babies. All words are written in English and Spanish, prompting a bilingual reading.

Genre: Board book/Concept book

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *My first bilingual farm* to introduce in your classroom:

Animal names
Farm equipment (tractor, combine)
Produce
Color names
Noises

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

Science and
Technology
Item DD
(Natural and physical
world)
Item BB
(Observing and
classifying)

Language, Literacy,
Communication
Item L
(Speaking)

Reading Tips

Each page in this board book includes high quality photographs of farm life. There are many different animals, equipment and produce. Because it is a concept book and not a story book, you might find that children will linger on some pages and move quickly past others. Practice the Spanish words if your comfort level with Spanish is not high, let children hear you say the words in both languages. Connect the photos to experiences from the children's lives, making those connections real for them.

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.

At a Group Time with materials, think about showing some of the photos as you invite children to play with toy animals. Or, have colored paper and invite children to match vehicles or animals or play food to the corresponding paper. At Music and Movement group time invite children to make the noises from the book or to move like the animals they see.

At a transition invite children to choose their favorite animal or vehicle and move like that to the next part of the day.

Around the Room

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

Collect farm animals and consider putting together animal 'families.' Add vehicles and people to the Block Area if they aren't there and talk about building a farm.

Put together fruits or vegetables or grains in the House Area and talk about how they are grown on a farm and how they get to us!

Active Engagement

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

The photographs on each page invite time. This book might be put to best use with individual children or in small groups. Let the child 'lead the way,' letting you know which pages are of most interest.

Take the time to practice the words in both languages and encourage children to do the same. Talk about the 2 languages and how the same object can be named in both and sound sometimes very different and sometimes quite similar.

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—
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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 *Play with me* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Your children may or may not have any experiences with farm life. If they have not, this book is a wonderful opportunity to introduce what farms look like and sound like. If they have been to a farm, then you can reconnect those experiences to illustrations from the book. Children learn about the types of things that farms produce. The fact that this is a bilingual text is an added bonus: connect English words with Spanish words and practice saying both!