

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



Little Owl's Love

Written and Illustrated by
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Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Gliding in the night, Little Owl realizes that his friends and all those around him all love something! What Hedgehog, Bear and Raccoon love circles back to Little Owl. What will he think now?

Genre: Picture

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Little Owl's Love* to introduce in your classroom:

glide	lodge
delighted	twilight
mist	notice

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

Social and Emotional Development Item D
(Emotions)

Physical Development And Health item J
(Fine-motor skills)

Creative Arts Item AA
(Pretend play)

Science & Technology Item BB
(Observing and classifying)
Item EE
(Tools and technology)

Reading Tips

Let the children know that Little Owl is awake at night, while we are sleeping. That is why it's dark. Say, "While Little Owl is flying, he sees a friend and learns something. Let's see what that is." Read with the excitement and wonder the characters express. At the "frog page", encourage the children to ribbit and croak to each other. Then say, "Little Owl is now somewhere else- lets look!" Whisper when reading about the sleeping animals. End by asking, "What is it that you love?" Write responses to use and add to later.

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.

At **Greeting Time**, start a list of things the children love. Add to the list as children offer or discover new things they love or love to do.

At **Small Group Time**, have small twigs, sticks and other random building material for children to construct a beaver lodge or other type of dwelling. Ask, "What do you call that?" and follow with, "Who lives in your----"?

Around the Room

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

Add labeled photos in the **Block Area** of animal dwellings (lodge, den, burrow, cave...) along with photos of animals who live in them. Encourage children to build and pretend!

Add animal puzzles and natural materials to compare and explore to the **Toy Area**.

Add books about owls as well as other related titles to the **Book Area**. "Little Beaver and the Echo" by Amy MacDonald and "Owl Babies" by Martin

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 *Little Owl's Love*:

What do you think it's like inside a beaver lodge?

Little Owl notices a lot in the story. What did you notice?

Who in the story would want as a friend? Why?

*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 *Little Owl's Love* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

While reading *Little Owl's Love* with your child, notice all the things he discovers that were always there but Little Owl had not noticed yet. Look around your home and "notice" things you realize that you love. Ask your child to have a turn. Look or walk outside to "watch the night sky". Sit outside or near a window quietly to listen for animals or the "cricket sound". Encourage your child by saying something like, "I love listening with you!" Recall how Little Owl shared with his Mama and let your child know you can't wait to learn what they love to do too.