

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



**You Are A Honey
Bee**

Written by Laurie Ann
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Illustrated by Jay Fleck

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

What do honey bees do? What would it be like to be a honeybee? This book takes us on a journey of the life of honey bees and includes how they take care of their babies and how they tell other bees where all the best flowers are located!

Genre: Informational

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *You Are A Honey Bee* to introduce in your classroom:

nectar	search
antennae	pollen
cell	honey

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 G (*Community*)

Language, Literacy and
Communication Item Q
(*Book enjoyment*)

Creative Arts
Item Z (*Movement*)

Science and Technology
Item DD (*Natural and
physical world*), Item EE
(*Tools and technology*)

Reading Tips

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."

Create a K-W-L chart. Ask the children what they know about honey bees before the first read. Ask what they want to know and add that to the chart. Encourage children to participate in all the bee-movements noted in the book. Stop often to ask questions like, "How far out does your tongue go? Could you use your tongue to make a bed for a baby?" After the first read ask, "What did you learn that you didn't know before?" Add this to the chart. Read this book many times and continue to add to the chart.

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.

Read the book as part of **Large Group Time**. Have all the children do the bee movements as they appear in the book. After, have the children make up their own “bee dance” and ask what their dance is trying to tell everyone.

Look for bees at **Outside Time**. Encourage children to observe for the behaviors from the book. Bring clipboards and paper so children can write or draw what the bees are doing. Later, share what was observed.

Around the Room

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

Post labeled pictures of honey bees, bumble bees, hornets and wasps in the **Book Area**. Encourage discussion on the similarities and differences. Add books on each so children can learn to distinguish friend from foe and how to behave around them with confidence.

Pretend to be bees in the **Art Area** by putting paint into squeeze bottles and pretend the paint is “royal jelly”. Squeeze the “royal jelly” to make pictures.

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 *You Are A Honey Bee*:

What do you think is the best thing about bees?

What would it be like to live in a beehive?

What do you think bees do for fun?

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 *You Are A Honey Bee* with their child. Here’s a sample message you can send:

As you and your child read this together, do the movements the bee does on each page. Compare the bees’ tasks to chores around the house. Ask, “What chores or jobs do you do that help all of us?” Pretend some of the parts of the book together like sticking out your tongue as far as it goes, standing guard or make up silly dances by shaking and wiggling. While outside together in the warmer months, look for bees and watch what they do. Say, “I see a bee on a flower. She is collecting pollen. What will she do next?” Have the conversations as often as your child is interested. When you tell your child they are “busy as a bee” they will know what you mean!