

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



**Gaga Mistake
Day**

Written by Emma and Susan
Straub
Illustrated by Jessica Love

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Gaga is the best grandma! She takes care of her granddaughter in the best possible ways! Laughter, smiles and silly adventures are what's going on! Who knew there were so many fun things to do? So where are the mistakes?

Genre: Picture

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Gaga Mistake Day* to introduce in your classroom:

mistake	pattern
wonky (<i>wobbly, unbalanced</i>)	
backwards	clatter

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

Language, Literacy and
Communication Item M
(Listening and
comprehension)

Creative Arts Item Z
(Movement)

Mathematics
Item S
(Number and counting)
Item V
(Patterns)

Social Studies Item FF
(Knowledge of self and
others)

Reading Tips

Ask the children if they have a grandma and to share what they do together. Tell them, "In our story, a girl who is your age tells us how she and her grandma spend their Saturday. She calls her grandma, Gaga." Stop now and then to ask questions like, "Have you ever done that?" Show the children the girl's face throughout and ask, "Is she having a good time? How do you know?" Give time for the children to giggle and share stories. Let them know the book will be in the Book Area so they can look at the book again and again.

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.

Walk backwards for **transitions**.

Have scarves, fuzzy slippers and other silly items for children to make “dance costumes” and dance at **Large Group Time**.

Use food counters (or other counters) to create a “1:1 correspondence plate” at **Small Group Time**. Use the same counters for children to create and imitate other children’s patterns at **Small Group** another day.

Around the Room

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

Have lots of soapy bubbles in the **Sand and Water Area** for Work Time.

Add colorful playdough and cookie cutters to the **Art Area**.

Get at least one Connect-4 game to add to the **Toy Area**. Have the children demonstrate all the ways to play it. Say *clatter* when they fall out.

Add related books to the **Book Area** like, “Baking Day at Grandma’s”.

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 *Gaga Mistake Day*:

What was your favorite part of the story? Why is that?

Have you ever made a silly mistake? Can you tell us about it?

What are the things you like to do with your Grandma or Grandpa?

*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 *Gaga Mistake Day* with their child. Here’s a sample message you can send:

As you read with your child, talk about silly and small mistakes that are in the story that are funny. Recall a silly mistake you had and share with your child. While reading stop and ask, “What is the mistake on this page?” Count all the items on the lunch plate to make sure the items and the numbers match. Ask, “Why do you think Gaga makes lunch like that?” Walk backwards, give a much too bubbly bubble bath and try to read the book upside down! Ask, “Was that a mistake?” Remember Gaga says, “Mistakes are fun, aren’t they?” Have fun!