

The  
Early Years Count  
**Literacy**  
Connection



**Peace is an  
Offering**

Written by Annette LeBox  
Illustrated by Stephanie  
Graegin

*Preschool edition*

**Overview of Book**

A diverse group of young friends enjoy each other's families and company in this lovely look at peace in our everyday lives. Gentle illustrations provide examples of kindness and presence that clearly demonstrate how children might "offer peace" throughout their day and throughout their community.

Genre: Realistic fiction

**Vocabulary**

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some from *Peace is an Offering* to introduce in your classroom:

peace	offering
gratitude	tragedy
courage	wounded
freedom	

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 & Emotional Devel.  
Item D (*Emotions*)  
Item G (*Community*)

Physical Development  
& Health

Item K (*Personal care  
and healthy behavior*)

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

Social Studies  
Item FF (*Knowledge  
of self and others*)

**Reading Tips**

Throughout this read aloud, give time for the children to look at the pictures and see the children and families' behavior that is offering peace.

Ask questions during the read aloud like, "Have you ever done this?" "How does it make you feel to see this picture?" "What is happening here? Tell me about this picture."

Notice the rhyming cadence of the text. Have the children help anticipate the rhyming word on the following line.

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**, invite the children to share stories about peace that they have experienced.

At **Arrival**, have the group walk through the school or setting to say hello/greet people who work there.

Create a May Pole for use at **Outside Time**.

Provide materials for children to “take apart” and “put together” at **Small Group Time**.

### **Around the Room**

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

Add card-making items to the **Writing Area**.

Ask children what materials need adding to the **Art Area** to help them create a picture or sculpture gift.

Post photos of children from around the world demonstrating peace and kindness.

Place books in the **Book Area** that support peace and kindness, for example, *Last Stop on Market Street* or *Ordinary Mary’s Extraordinary Deed*.

### **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 *Peace is an Offering*:

What does peace mean to you?

What are some ways that we might offer peace to others in our classroom?

What are some other words that might describe peace?

Can you think of a time when someone offered you peace?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact **The Family Connection:***

website—  
[www.famconn.org](http://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 *Peace is an Offering* with their children. Here’s a sample message you can send:

The lovely book, *Peace is an Offering*, has given us opportunities to reflect on peace and what “offering peace” might look like in our classroom. Together with your child, notice the kindness and “peaceful offerings” that happen in your home and neighborhood. You may see someone hold a door open for another, carry packages, let someone go ahead of them in a line, or share a treat. By pointing out these lovely and simple gestures, it makes it clear to children that kindness doesn’t cost money or take a lot of effort—it just takes attentiveness to see a need and help!