

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Little Poems For Tiny Ears

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Infant/Toddler edition
August 2018

Overview of Book

Lovely poems describe and celebrate a baby or toddler's life experiences and perspective. Each poem softly sums up how a little one sees the world—from car seats to kitties to Daddy's beard. Open the book and enjoy!

Genre: Poetry

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some from *Little Poems for Tiny Ears* to introduce in your classroom:

Body parts—nose, toes, bottom, feet and mouth, tongue, face, ear, knee, legs, belly button

Animal names—dog, kitty, bird, dino's, kangaroos, rubber duckie

Fun, silly or nonsense words—poof, hiccup, slurp, snort, snooze, kerplop, la-dee-dum, babble

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.

Connecting with HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Approaches to
Learning
Item A
(Initiative and planning)

Social and Emotional
Development
Item E
(*Building relationships with
adults*)

Physical Development
and Health
Item K
(*Personal care and
healthy behavior*)

Reading Tips

Show the children the pictures for the poem you will read. "What is going on? What is she doing?" Encourage the children to look at the pictures and try out the movements they see. For example, the poem "High Chair" has a boy with his arms raised up high. The children may want to do that!

Ask open-ended questions that pertain to each poem. For example, in the poem "My Car Seat" ask, "Where's he going?" "What kind of cereal is that?" "What do you take for a car ride?"

Play "Peek-a-boo" after the poem about that! You can suggest to the children, "Let's all do it—let's play Peek-a-boo!"

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.

As children play and explore during **Choice Time** and you observe children using or playing with items that are remind you of the poem, take that opportunity to read or recite the poem.

Children can pretend to be dogs and kitties for **Group Time**.

Talk about body parts and recite the diaper poem during **Bodily Care** times. Count those toes!

Around the Room

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

Place pots and pans, spoons and dish towels out for children to bang around.

Add stuffed dogs and cats to the **House Area**.

Copy and hang poems from the book in the various areas in the learning environment so you can read when children are there.

Put *Little Poems for Tiny Ears* on display in the book area so the children can easily find it on their own.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These "wondering aloud" questions support children's developing focus and attention as they encourage young children's capacity to make connections and see possibilities.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Little Poems for Tiny Ears*:

- Where's the baby going?
- What sounds do you like to make?
- What's the baby dreaming about?
- How do you play (in the bath / with the animals)?

*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](https://www.facebook.com/famconnsjc)

phone—
574-237-9740

@ 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 *Little Poems for Tiny Ears* with their children. Here's a sample message to send:

We've been enjoying *Little Poems for Tiny Ears* and hope you have been too. We love that the book is filled with rhymes about everyday experiences in a baby or toddler's life. It is also rich with a variety of words, from body parts (nose, toes, bottom, tongue, face, ear, knee, legs, belly button) to animal names (dog, kitty, bird, kangaroos, rubber duckie) to fun, silly or nonsense words (hiccup, poof, slurp, snort, snooze, kerplop, la-dee-dum, babble). Think about ways to use these words throughout the day: "kerplop!" for a spill, "rubber duckie" at bathtime. For many of these poems, a soft tone of voice as you cuddle before bed or a nap will relax not only your little one, but you too!