

The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



Where's Ellie?

Written and Illustrated by
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Infant/Toddler edition
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Overview of Book

Ellie the Elephant hides in lots of different places. She is clever because her trunk looks like other objects! Babies will have the chance to recognize the whole 'object' (Ellie) from the little bits of her that are visible. Hide and seek is a great way to have fun with object permanence and part-whole relations.

Genre: Concept based (Alphabet and Social/Emotional)

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some from *Where's Ellie?* to introduce in your classroom:

elephant	squirrel
teapot	flowers
cactus	garden hose

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.

Use the new words throughout the day, reminding children, "That's a word from our story!"

Connecting with HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Science and
Technology
Item BB
(Observing and
classifying)

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

Reading Tips

You can "connect" the illustrations to create a story about Ellie's adventures. Make up a story about why Ellie is hiding. Use a questioning tone to help children make predictions about where Ellie is and how they can tell she's there. The ladybug is a continuous character, so help the children follow her across the pages. Allow the children to touch the pages—there is some texture that they can use to discriminate the elephant's ear and trunk.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. During each reading the adult can 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.

Play some hide and seek games as you move throughout the day.

Play peek-a-boo and refer back to Ellie's peek-a-boo adventures.

Move like elephants or the other animals in the story as you **transition**.

Make elephant or other animal sounds.

Around the Room

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

Create some 'hide and seek' spaces— young infants can't move to them yet, but as they become mobile they will love to 'hide' and can't wait for you to 'find them!'

Put *Where's Ellie?* 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 *Where's Ellie*:

Why is Ellie hiding?

What other games does Ellie like to play?

Where is the ladybug going to hide?

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 *Where's Ellie?* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

We all know how much babies love peek-a-boo—what's not to love about seeing the big smile on your baby's face with such a simple game? *Where's Ellie?* is a delightful peek-a-boo type of book.

As you read *Where's Ellie?* with your baby, reinforce the names of the objects on each page as you point to the objects. Babies will begin to see the "part" and the "whole," and you can have some fun "guessing" along with the baby!