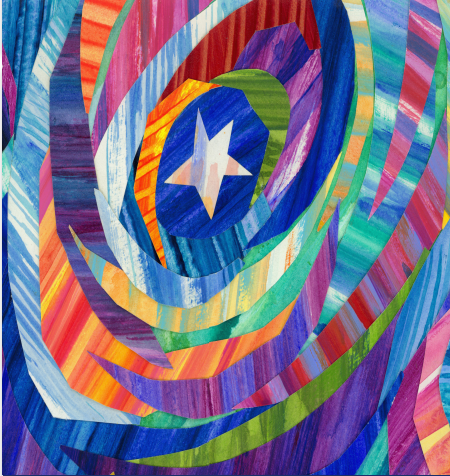


The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



The Night Before The Dentist

Written by Natasha Wing
Illustrated by Amy Wummer

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

What better way to learn about what to expect when you are going to the dentist for the first time than with a familiar cadence and rhyming text? All the details from the waiting room to the flavor of polish are depicted.

Genre: Picture book/informational

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *The Night Before The Dentist* to introduce in your classroom:

dentist	x-ray
cavities	polish
flossing	toothbrush

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 D (*Emotions*)

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

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

Science and Technology
Item EE
(*Tools and technology*)

Reading Tips

Ask children about their experiences with the dentist. Start a "loose" and "lost" tooth chart. Ask the children to listen carefully because, "I'll want your help finishing the sentences- all will rhyme." Read slowly and pause at the end for the children to offer the rhyme last word. Take a moment to look at all the pictures. Point out the details like what is in the waiting room. At the end, take time to talk about the sequence of the child's time with the dentist. "First, he..." Ask, "Was there a part that was a little scary?" Plan time for children to share.

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.

For **Small Group Time**, each child gets a toothbrush and a peach or other soft fruit to practice gently brushing (and then eat a healthy snack!)

Ask questions and write responses about children's experiences with the dentist. Plan to review, add to and discuss daily at **Greeting Time**.

Start a "loose tooth" and a "lost tooth" chart to keep tabs on all developments. Review weekly at **Snack Time**.

Around the Room

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

Paint with toothbrushes in the **Art Area**.

Add toothbrushes in the **House Area** and encourage children to brush the baby dolls teeth.

Post x-rays of teeth as well as other body parts and animals in the **Book Area** or **Quiet Area** for children to look at thoughtfully.

Add "Bear's Loose Tooth" by Karma Wilson to the **Book Area**.

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 *The Night Before The Dentist*:

Have you or a brother or sister lost a tooth? Can you tell me about that?

How do you take care of your teeth?

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 *The Night Before The Dentist* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

This is a great book to read with your child several times even if your child has been to the dentist already. If your child has been to the dentist ask "What was the same or different from your experience compared to the boy in the story?" If your child has not yet gone, this book is an excellent, gentle introduction into what going to the dentist is all about. Use or create a tooth-brushing routine as part of the bedtime routine. Use this time to talk about how important keeping teeth healthy is, and that going to the dentist is another way we can take care of ourselves.