

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



I Love My Daddy Because...

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Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

A little girl begins by describing what her daddy does for her that makes her love him so much. Then animal families are used to define more things that daddies do and to help us to make the connections between people and our animal friends.

Genre: Picture book/realistic fiction/concept (animal names and characteristics)

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *I Love My Daddy Because...* to introduce in your classroom:

animal names	protects
brave	watches
careful	reach

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

Social and Emotional
Development
Item D
(Emotions)

Creative Arts
Item AA (*Pretend play*)

Science and
Technology
Item DD (*Natural and
physical world*)

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

Reading Tips

While reading this book to the group, take time to point out the animals and their behaviors and to notice the similarities in how people and animals show how they care about their "children". For example, "Look at the daddy lion taking a nap with his cub. People daddies do that too!" Ask the children after certain pages if their daddy does the same as the book describes.

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 hide-and-seek at **Outside Time**.

Pretend to be animal families at **Choice Time**. Use props from the House Area to support caregiving and Block Area materials for "house building."

Move and act like animals for **transitions**.

Pass around a classroom baby doll or favorite stuffed animal to hug at **Greeting Time**.

Around the Room

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

Provide animal puppets and stuffed versions of the animals from the book in the **Toy Area**.

Post labeled photographs of animals from the book at children's level.

Update your family pictures in the classroom to include any newer additions to the group.

Put *I Love My Daddy Because...* 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 *I Love My Daddy Because...*:

- Which is your favorite animal daddy in the story? Why?
- What is your favorite game to play with your family?
- Why do you think the fox daddy is teaching his young to be careful about the porcupine?

*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 *I Love My Daddy Because...* with their children. Here's a sample message to send:

As you read *I Love My Daddy Because...* with your child, talk about how the animals also care about their little ones. Let your child know how it is that you and the others that love and take care of your child also teach how to be brave, play with and keep them safe. "The Puffin is bringing a fish dinner to his baby. How do we bring you dinner?" Fill in the words when your child is unable to. "We fill your plate and bring it to your place at the table, huh?" Feel free to linger on pages your child especially likes to keep the interaction going. "You really like the daddy lion napping with the little cub. What else do lions do?"