

The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



Dog's Colorful Day: A messy story about colors and counting

Written and illustrated by
Emma Dodd

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

Dog has one black spot on his left ear. Different colored spots keep adding up as he goes through his day. By the end of the day, he has 10 colorful spots. Where did all these spots come from?

Genre: Concept—colors, counting to 10

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Dog's Colorful Day* to introduce in your classroom:

drip	pollen	smudge
splat	swish	blob
splish	trots	smear
squash	splosh	
splatters	appears	

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

Physical Development
and Health
Item I (*Gross-motor skills*)

Mathematics
Item S (*Number and
counting*)

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item M (*Listening and
comprehension*)

Item N
(*Phonological awareness*)

Reading Tips

Use a silly tone to encourage the children to see the innocent humor of Dog's adventures. Say, "Oh, no! Now what is on Dog?" Touch the body parts as they are mentioned in the story (left ear, right ear, back, leg, head). Before the last page, ask the children, "How will Dog get all these spots off?" Listen to responses and then see what happens. Practice counting to 10 together by clapping, stomping or jumping.

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.

Use bingo dabblers of different colors at **Small Group Time**. See if the children can count as they dab. Use all the fun words as you dab along with the children.

Use eyedroppers in the Art Area at **Choice Time** to "splish" pink colored water on paper.

Jump to 10 as you **transition** throughout the day.

Around the Room

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

Place a copy of *Harry The Dirty Dog* in the **Book Area** to read and compare.

If you have some plastic animals with tails in your classroom collection, place them in the **Art Area** so the children can use their tails to paint with blue paint.

Place numbered, colored circles on the floor for the children to follow in a variety of ways.

Pretend to bathe the animals in the **House Area**.

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 *Dog's Colorful Day*:

What else could make a red (blue, brown, green, etc.) spot?

Have you ever had colorful spots or stains on you? How did that happen?

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 *Dog's Colorful Day* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Have fun with the wonderful sound effects words as you read about colors and counting in *Dog's Colorful Day*. Dog certainly is messy and young children can understand how this happens in spite of "being careful." At bath time, pretend to wash off colorful spots. "Is this where a 'blob' got on you?" or, "I must get this red 'splotch' off you!" Ask your child about their daily adventures. "Is this grey 'splatter' from being outside?" or, "Is this brown 'smudge' where you enjoyed the dirt today?" Count anything and everything with your child as you do daily errands or chores. For example, "Let's count the number of forks we need to set the table for supper."