

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Littles: and How they Grow

Written by
Kelly DiPucchio
Illustrated by
AG Ford

Infant/Toddler edition
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Overview of Book

Babies are lovingly shown as they grow and play. *Littles: and How they Grow* demonstrates just how busy babies are. Sometimes it's a lot of fun being a baby—playing peek-a-boo with Grandma and Grandpa or napping under the watchful gaze of big sister. Other times it's hard to be a baby, like when a new tooth comes in or when sleep won't come.

Genre: Fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Littles: and How they Grow* to introduce in your classroom:

kin	sway
busy	cherished

Also, throughout the book, you can name the common household objects that are shown and use common verbs to describe the actions (for example, "hug," "cuddle," "bathe").

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

Social and Emotional
Development
Item H
(Conflict Resolution)

Physical Development
and Health
Item I
(Gross-Motor Skills)

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item N
(Phonological Awareness)

Reading Tips

Explore *Littles: and How they Grow* with the children by looking at the pictures. The rhyming of the text makes for an easy cadence that makes for a smooth transition between pages.

Give time for the children to point to and talk about the pictures. The pages that draw their attention will be your guide as to stopping and giving those longer looks. Ask questions and narrate the scene. For example, if children like the page with the twin strollers say, "There are 2 babies! One and two. I wonder where they are going? They have hats on...and their mommy has sunglasses on. Where are they going?"

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.

Several times throughout your daily routines with the children, these same activities will be happening.

When you notice one of the book activities taking place, take a moment to point this out and make references like, "You are sucking your toes just like the baby in our story!" or, "You are on your belly on the polka-dot blanket like the baby in the book!"

Around the Room

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

Locate and have available similar toys, pretend and dress-up materials that are in the book like two yellow hats, a polka-dot blanket, stuffed lion and boppy pillows.

Take and post photos of family members acting out/performing the caregiving and loving actions in the story. Post these where children see and refer to the book.

Put *Littles: and How they Grow* on display in the book 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 *Littles: and How they Grow*:

What's that baby doing?

The dog isn't sharing! How does make you feel?

Where's that baby going?

Why can't he sleep?

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 *Littles: and How They Grow* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Littles: and How they Grow demonstrates just how busy babies are! Sometimes it's a lot of fun being a baby—playing peek-a-boo with Grandma and Grandpa or napping under the watchful gaze of big sister. Other times it's hard to be a baby, like when a new tooth comes in or when sleep won't come. Cuddle up with your child and read this story over and over. When you read a page say, "You do that, too!" Play the peek-a-boo game and give time for silliness at bath time too.