

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



A Father's LOVE

Written by Hannah Holt
Illustrated by Yee Von Chan

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Throughout the animal kingdom, animal daddies love to their little ones. With a rhyming narrative and gentle illustrations, *A Father's Love* explores the many ways that foxes, frogs, emus, seahorses, lions, wolves and other animals the world over share their love. As an added bonus, each page features a different color and all sorts of animal facts are listed in the back.

Genre: Informational/Concept (colors, animals), Picture book

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *A Father's Love* to introduce in your classroom:

swirling	beneath
velvet	creekside
soothes	animal names

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*)

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

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

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

Reading Tips

This story could be read in many ways—a whisper, a playful tone, or with wonder. Note the rhymes as you read, as well as the many new descriptive words. The pages read like separate little poems. Ask the children questions after each page and use the terms just read. For example, "How does your father soothe you when you flap and fledge?" This book could be read a few pages at a time to focus on the animals, colors and new vocabulary just read. You might also share information from the animal facts at the end of the book.

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.

Have a supply of sticks and twigs for children to create Emu or Peregrine Falcon nests for **Small Group Time**.

Make cards of animals from the story for children to select and imitate for **Large Group Time**.

At **Greeting Time**, brainstorm animals from various categories that may be similar to animals from the story. For example, other animals that live in dens or in trees, other animals that live where it's cold.

Around the Room

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

Add photos of real animal babies and parents in the **House Area**.

Hang a world map in the **Book Area**. Refer to it while reading this and other books about animals and people around the world. Put this book on display so children can look at it throughout the day.

Encourage language use with paints in the **Art Area**. Use terms from the story like "frosty white" or "hazy yellow."

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 *A Father's Love*:

What animal from the story would you choose to be? Why?

What would happen if the baby fox and the baby lion were friends?

What do you think baby penguins do for fun?

What are some of the different ways that daddies show their love?

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 *A Father's Love* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

When we've been reading *A Father's Love*, the children have been comparing the animals in the story—how each father shows love and how different and alike some of the animals are. As you enjoy this story with your child, share how you and your family show love. Compare with the animals in the story. For example, after reading the lion page, open your hands and gently hug your child with your "velvet paws." After reading the page about the wolf family, you and your child can howl together! Compare yourself with the animals like, "The emu sits and never quits—and neither does this family!" Lots of hugs can accompany this story!