

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Spend It!

Written and illustrated by
Cinders McLeod

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Sonny Bunny wants to spend all his allowance. The things he wants are more expensive than he thinks—and cost more than his allowance. His mom helps him understand how much each thing costs. Now he needs to make choices. What will Sonny get?

Genre: Picture book/Concept (simple addition, use of money)

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Spend It!* to introduce in your classroom:

allowance	important
amount	spend
ridiculous	

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

Approaches To Learning
Item A (Initiative and
planning)

Social And Emotional
Development
Item D (*Emotions*)

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

Mathematics
Item S (*Numbers and
counting*)

Reading Tips

Introduce the story by asking the children if they get an allowance. Say, "The bunny in the story gets an allowance but there is a problem." Note how Sonny goes through a range of emotions. Share these with the children. "How does Sonny feel when he finally makes his choice?" Animate your voice to help illustrate Sonny throughout the story.

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."

At the end of each reading, display the book in the book area so children can read it on their own.

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.

Bounce and say “boing” during **transitions**.

Use counting vegetables (carrots) if possible or bears to “buy” things with 1:1 correspondence at **Small Group Time**.

When children are ready, add items that might cost more, for example 2 carrots or 5 carrots.

Play a count and jump game at **Large Group Time**. Have children pick a numbered card for all to jump and count to together.

Around the Room

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

Add other related books to the **Book Area**. Examples include *A Chair For My Mother* by Vera B. Williams and *If You Made A Million* by David M. Schwartz.

Copy and hang the page from the story with 100 carrots. What does 100 look like? Show 100 things at **Greeting Time** to show how much or how little space 100 of something takes up. Examples include 100 puff balls, 100 pieces of dried corn, 100 crayons... Chart predictions and ask children for ideas.

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 *Spend It!*:

If you were a bunny, which item would you choose from the story to spend your carrots on? Why?

Why do you think a bunny would want a pogo stick?

Have you ever thought you were going to get something and then couldn’t like Sonny Bunny? How did that make you feel?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact **The Family Connection:***

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www.famconn.org

Facebook—
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phone—
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@ 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 *Spend It!* with their child. Here’s a sample message you can send:

While enjoying *Spend It!* with your child, take advantage of the several wonderful openings for discussion you and your child can have together. Emotions like excitement, disappointment, and acceptance are important to explore, especially around things we want vs. things we need. The idea of saving or spending, how much things cost, and making choices accordingly are conversations that can start with this story. Gently share your family beliefs ideals on this and ask your child, “What would you want now?” and “What would you want to save for?” Sonny’s mom in the story guides him to be able to make a real choice given the situation. When your child is with you on a shopping trip, talk about why you are getting things now and what you will get later.