

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



**Llama Llama
Red Pajama**

Written and Illustrated by
Anna Dewdney

Infant/Toddler edition
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Overview of Book

Llama llama has been lovingly tucked in bed by his mama. After she leaves the room, he calls to her and she doesn't come. Where's Mama? Is she gone? Why isn't she coming? It is so hard to wait, and while Llama llama waits, he gets worried, then scared! Will Mama come back?

Genre: Fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Llama Llama Red Pajama* to introduce in your classroom:

downstairs	alone
hum	tune
fret	whimper
moan	weeping
wailing	tizzy

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*)
Item E (*Building
relationships with adults*)

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

Creative Arts
Item AA (*Pretend play*)

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

Reading Tips

Llama llama is great book for children to listen for and hear the rhyme on each page. Read the title slowly to accentuate the rhyme and tell the children, "We're going to hear lots of rhyme sounds in this story." Read slowly since this is a "bedtime" book and Mama Llama is trying to get her baby to sleep.

Have the children notice the facial expressions on Llama llama in each picture. Ask open-ended questions like, "How does he feel now?" "Why is he (stomping, wailing...)"

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story.

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 the terms *before*, *after* and *next* throughout the daily routines.

At **Greeting** or **Group Time** hum the songs that you usually sing, just like Mama Llama did to help Llama llama wait. Have the children hum along with you if they can.

Read *Llama Llama Red Pajama* as children get themselves ready for **Naptime**. Go on a hunt for something red, just like the color of Llama llama's pjs.

Around the Room

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

Have baby blankets, pillows, pajamas and baby beds for children to pretend putting babies and stuffed animals to bed in the **House Area**.

Place other parent/child books in the **Book Area**. Examples include *Are You My Mother?* By P. D. Eastman and *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn.

Put *Llama Llama Red Pajama* 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 *Llama Llama*:

I wonder what story Mama Llama is reading to Llama llama?

Llama llama hums a tune to help him wait. What do you do when you have to wait for your mommy?

What do you think Mama Llama was thinking as she ran up the stairs?

*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 *Llama Llama Red Pajama* with their children. Here's a sample message to send:

Llama Llama Red Pajama has become a favorite in our classroom. Its expressive pictures give us opportunities to talk about feeling alone and being worried. We've also been using lots of the new words from the book, like *fret*, *hum*, *whimper*, *moan*, and *tizzy*. The gentle rhymes and bedtime theme make this a wonderful book to read before you tuck your little one in bed, just like Mama llama is doing with Baby llama. Take some time to look at each page with your child and talk about what Baby llama might be feeling. Let your child know that it's hard to wait sometimes, but you will always be there—just like Mama llama.