

The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



Llama Llama Gram and Grandpa

Written and illustrated by
Anna Dewdney

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

Llama Llama is going to spend the night with his Gram and Grandpa! He's so excited! Uh, oh! Something is wrong. Can Llama Llama still enjoy his visit even though he forgot something important?

Genre: Picture/fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Llama Llama Gram and Grandpa* to introduce in your room:

overnight	quiver
alone	shiver
workshop	reappear

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

Approaches to
Learning
Item A
(Initiative and planning)

Social and Emotional
Development
Item D
(Emotions)

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item N
(Phonological awareness)

Social Studies
Item FF
(Knowledge of self)

Reading Tips

Ask the children if they have ever spent an *overnight* at a relative's house. Read slowly but with feeling to capture the rhymes in the text. Ask questions like, "How will Llama Llama enjoy himself if he is so sad?" At the end ask the group, "How was he able to have fun?"

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.

Have the children share how to *quiver*, *shake* and *shiver* at **Group Time**.

Pretend to drive a tractor and do silly rhymes for **Transitions**.

Provide popsicle sticks, wood pieces, glue, and small real tools at **Small Group Time** to practice building/creating.

At **Mealtimes**, ask if anything has been *stewed* or if anything served is *squishy*.

Around the Room

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

Have a collection of tools in the **Block Area** for children to explore.

Add popsicle sticks, wood pieces and glue to the **Art Area**.

Ask families for a photo of their child's favorite bed buddy. Post with the child's name and name of bed buddy in the **House Area**.

Provide small bags to pack for pretend *overnights* 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 *Llama Llama Gram and Grandpa*:

What would you pack for an overnight?

Do you have a favorite bed buddy? Can you tell us about him?

*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 Gram and Grandpa* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Llama Llama does many different things in the story about his overnight with Gram and Grandpa. He builds a chair, pretends to drive a tractor, and tries something new at dinner. While reading this with your child, talk about something new you might try together. Plant carrot seeds in a window pot? Look at cookbooks and try a new recipe? Go star gazing at night? Talk through some of the complex emotions in the story like worry, homesick or lonely. Llama Llama was interested in seeing an old framed photo of his mommy. Share photos of yourself at your child's age and compare.