

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



Wild Horses

Written by Kate Riggs

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Beautiful photographs and simple text offer a first look at these magnificent animals.

Genre: Non-fiction

Vocabulary

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

Mustangs	brumbies	wild
Przewalski's	rearing	foal
predator	stallion	mane

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

Physical Development and Health Item I
(Gross-motor skills)

Language, Literacy and Communication Item Q
(Book enjoyment and knowledge)

Creative Arts
Item X (Art), Item AA
(Pretend play)

Science and Technology
Item BB (Observing and classifying)

Reading Tips

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."

Ask the children to share what they may know about horses. Ask, "Did you know horses can be wild? What are wild animals and how are they different from animals that are not wild?" Write down some of the responses to return to as the children hear this book. Take time for children to offer thoughts and ask questions throughout.

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.

Practice *galloping* and *rearing* at **Large Group Time**.

Sort wild and tame/domesticated animals at **Small Group Time**. Encourage the children to explain how and why they sorted the way they did.

Run like wild horses at **Outside Time**.

Around the Room

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

Post photographs in the **Book Area** of different horse breeds. Encourage children to compare size and color combinations and to describe what the horses might do (race, pull wagons, etc...)

Locate as many horse figures as you can and add to the **Block Area**. Encourage the children to build corrals, racetracks and barns. Pretend some horses are wild and some are not.

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 *Wild Horses*:

What is your favorite thing about wild horses?

If you could talk to the wild horses, what would you want to know?

What do the wild horses think about?

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—
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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 *Wild Horses* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

As you and your child learn together with this book, ask open-ended questions to your child about all this book has to offer. Wonder out loud after reading a page. For example, "They are all running so fast. I wonder where they are all going?" Talk about what the foals are playing. "They look like they are having fun! What do you think they are playing?" Ask your child to show you their favorite page and talk about it. Use some of the words in the book in place of more familiar ones. Ask, "Will you *gallop* into the living room and get the *Wild Horses* book? I want to learn more with you!" or, "Here, I will help brush your *mane*!"