

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



Road Builders

Written by BG Hennessy
Illustrated by Simms Taback

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

Have you ever wondered how roads are built? This book explains it all! It's filled with toddler-level information about trucks and the process of how roads are built from start to finish.

Genre: Informational/non-fiction

Vocabulary

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

construction vehicle names	
plan	gravel
gooey	chute
scoop	gutters
smooth	asphalt

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)
Item B *(Problem solving with materials)*

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

Creative Arts Item AA
(Pretend play)

Science And Technology Item AA
(Tools and technology)

Reading Tips

This is a nice book to look through with a child on your lap. Open this book to any page or begin where a child has opened the book. Look carefully together at the detailed drawings. Talk through the pictures. For example, "Look at all these trucks. I wonder which is the backhoe. Hmm. What do you think?" Imitate the trucks and make sound effects. Encourage the child to imitate.

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.

Use a big dump truck for the children to push towards peers at **Greeting Time**.

Move like trucks for **Transitions**. Encourage children to name their trucks.

At **Group Time**, have goop and provide items to mix in it, call it *asphalt*. Use toy trucks and pretend to drive through it.

Provide shovels at **Outside Time** and recall vocabulary from the story as children dig.

Around the Room

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

Provide an array of trucks in the **Block Area**. Encourage filling and dumping.

Have smaller trucks in the **Sand and Water Area**.

Post realistic pictures of construction vehicles at children's level throughout the room.

Add other construction, truck and road signs books to the **Book 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 *Road Builders*:

Which truck do you like?

Show me how you would drive the truck.

What might happen if they don't follow the plan?

*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 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 *Road Builders* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

While looking through *Road Builders* with your child, comment on pages that your child is especially interested in. For example, "You really like the page with the power roller. Those big wheels are perfect for smoothing out the road. We don't want to ride on bumpy roads." This type of conversation really helps your child understand the content of the book while also lengthening the lovely book experience. While out with your child, point out any construction vehicles you see and relate them back to the story. This reinforces new vocabulary as well as an opportunity for your child to make connections between the real world and the story.