

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



K is for Kindness

Written by Rina Horiuchi
Illustrated by Risa Horiuchi

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

All the letters of the alphabet, along with animals of each letter are used in fun, clear sentences that remind us all of the many ways to show kindness and caring.

Genre: Picture book/alphabet

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *K is for Kindness* to introduce in your room:

animal names from the story
untangle
origami
zonked

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 G
(*Community*)

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

Reading Tips

Share this book with your group and ask them to "help" hear and make the sounds of each letter. Ask the children, "Listen as I read this, and then you make the sound!" As you read, ask the group, "What other words do you know that begin with this sound?" Make the sound again as a reminder. The sentences are written as alliterations. Try to have the children create short sentences like the ones in the story. Write them down to read back!

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.

Transition children from activity to activity by using initial sounds. "If you have the /ah/ sound in your name, go to Small Group."

At **Small Group** give each child random materials from the classroom to encourage exploration and naming the items. Then, make piles of all the things that begin with the same sound.

Around the Room

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

Add doctor/veterinarian props and materials to the **House Area** to encourage caring pretend play scenarios.

Place other Imagination Library books in the **Book Area** that promote discussions about kindness. Include "Peace Is An Offering" by Annette Le Box and "The Spiffiest Giant in Town" by Julia Donaldson.

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 *K is for Kindness*:

How are ways you show kindness?

Has someone been kind to you? How?

Which part of the book did you like the best? Why?

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 *K is for Kindness* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

While sharing this book with your child, linger on the pages that you or your child wants to look at or talk about. Ask, "How is this animal showing kindness? Why is this a kind thing to do?" Talk openly with your child about things you may have done for others or that others have done for you. Add how it makes you feel and encourage your child to share as well. Use emotion/feeling terms. Notice the sounds on each page- that each letter has a page. Play with the sounds you hear when you read and encourage your child to add words with the same letter sound. Have fun with the possibilities this book has- with sounds as well as the message of how kindness matters!