

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Miss Maple's Seeds

Written and photography
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Preschool edition
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Overview of Book

Miss Maple travels in search of lost seeds that have not found a place to grow. She brings them back to her little maple tree house and takes care of them all winter. In the spring, she sets them off on their journey to grow and be the plants they were destined to become.

Genre: Fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Miss Maple's Seeds* to introduce in your classroom:

bustling	burrow
distant	similar
journey	gazes

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 J (*Fine-motor skills*)

Mathematics
Item W (*Data analysis*)

Creative Arts
Item Z (*Movement*)

Science and Technology
Item BB (*Observing
and classifying*)
Item DD (*Natural and
Physical World*)

Reading Tips

Use a "meandering" tone, for this story weaves through a whole year. Develop a voice for Miss Maple that reflects her personality (she's tiny and focused, friendly, loving and driven to do what she does!).

Three times in the text Miss Maple says, "...for the world is big and you are small." Cue the children about this line and encourage them to say it along with you as you read it. Let them know before you read the first time that they will "help you read the story."

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."

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.

For **Small Group Time**, have a variety of seeds along with magnifying glasses and tweezers for each child to explore, observe, sort and comment on.

For **Large Group Time**, play "Waltz of the Flowers" from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" and have the children dance as flowers.

Create and laminate plant identification cards and put them on clipboards for the children to use during **Outside Time**. Keep a list of the plants that the children identify.

Around the Room

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

In the **House Area**, plant seeds and place them on a windowsill to grow. Collect a variety of seeds, attach them to a poster, label and hang for reference and exploration.

Place seed catalogues in the **Art Area** for children to cut up and use to create collages.

Add wooden or Lego trees and plants to the **Block Area**. Create a whimsical village for Miss Maple.

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 *Miss Maple's Seeds*:

How could the seeds have gotten lost?

What does Miss Maple do when she's not helping the orphan seeds?

What will the seeds need to help them grow?

What are different ways that seeds can travel?

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—
@famconnsc

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 *Miss Maple's Seeds* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Miss Maple's Seeds is a delightful science lesson! We've been exploring seeds at school and that's something you can do at home, too. As meals are prepared, encourage your child to examine seeds that come from foods the family will be eating. A plastic plate or tray with paper towel will help to keep them contained. Muffin tins or other small containers can be used to sort. Ask questions like, "Are these fruit seeds or vegetable seeds? How are they different or alike?" Notice there are seeds on bread sometimes too! (Sesame, poppy or caraway for example.) You can find activity sheets to go with this book at: wheelerstudio.com/2013/04/03/miss-maples-seeds-activity-sheets/