

# The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



## Edie is Ever So Helpful!

Written and illustrated by:  
Sophy Henn

*Preschool edition*

### Overview of Book

Edie loves nothing better than being helpful. She's helpful at home, at the park, and at the store. Sometimes she can be TOO helpful. What then?

Genre: Picture book/fiction

### Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some from *Edie is ever so helpful!* to introduce in your classroom:

delicious	tidying
exhausted	hairstyles
organizing	snazzy

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*

Approaches to Learning  
Item A  
(Initiative and planning)  
Item B  
(Problem solving with materials)

Social and Emotional  
Development  
Item G  
(Community)

### Reading Tips

As you read, take note of the different ways that Edie expresses herself and the words she uses. Stop and ask, "She puts her shoes on and off she pops. What does that mean?" Remind the children, "Edie is from England and this is how children your age say things! It sounds different but means the same." After the story, ask the children to share how they help with their family.

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."

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.

At **Clean Up** time, ask, "Who will *tidy* up the blocks?" or, "Who can help *organize* the House Area?"

Read other books about being helpful at **Greeting Time**. Examples include *A Chair For my Mother* by Vera B. Williams and *The Teddy Bear* by David McPhail. Compare and contrast how the characters are helpful.

### **Around the Room**

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

Provide plenty of new collage materials for children to make *jazzy, snazzy* pictures in the **Art Area**.

Have extra dolls and hairdresser props for a pretend Hair Salon in the **House Area**.

Put up giant butcher paper on a wall and have the children choose from the **Art Area** how to decorate it. Pretend it's a wall in "their house".

### **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 *Edie is ever so helpful!*:

Why do you think Edie loves being so helpful?

How are you helpful at your home?

How does being helpful make you feel?

For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact ***The Family Connection:***

website—  
[www.famconn.org](http://www.famconn.org)

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### **@ 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 this book with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

As you read *Edie is Ever So Helpful!* with your child, note the ways Edie helps out with her family. Talk with your child about chores that he or she does, or may soon begin to do, that really help the whole household. During the conversation, point out that your child already does a lot! At school your child helps at Clean-up Time—and maybe at home too. At school, your child already takes care of belongings, like hanging a coat or storing boots. This also may be something that's done at home. What else does your child do? Sharing and acknowledging how the family all works together—each in his or her own way—is one way to reinforce everyone's contribution.