

The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



Silly Goose's BIG Story

Written and illustrated by
Keiko Kasza

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Goose loves to tell stories, but only so that he can be the hero or the king. His friends want a turn to play these roles in his stories. As the friends argue about this, something happens. Will Goose be all right? What will his friends do?

Genre: Picture book/fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Silly Goose's Big Story* to introduce in your classroom:

fierce	selfish
roaming	arguing
mighty	distance
animal names	relieved
heroes	notice

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,

Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Approaches to Learning
Item A (Initiative and planning)

Social and Emotional
Development
Item D (*Emotions*)
Item F (Building relationships with other children)

Language, Literacy and
Communication
Item M (*Listening and comprehension*)

Creative Arts
Item AA (*Pretend play*)

Reading Tips

As you read this story to the group, point out the character's pretend play. "Oh, they play pirates and they pretend to be dinosaurs, just like some of us like to pretend those things!" As you read about Goose and how hard it is for him to share the leader role, ask, "Who has had this problem? What did you do to solve it?" Listen to children share. Add, "Let's read on and see how these friends solve the problem."

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.

Use a balance beam or stepping-stones to pretend to “walk the plank” at **Outside Time**.

Pretend to have a wolf-picnic at **Work Time**.

March like mighty kings all around the room at **Clean-up** to check all the areas.

Give the children a variety of animals and dinosaurs to play with and sort at **Small Group Time**.

Around the Room

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

Add *Chicken Little* to the **Book Area** to compare and contrast to this book.

Place a variety of random dress-up clothes in the **House Area** to encourage pretend play.

Post a map of Indiana in the classroom and locate where the animals in the story live. Look for wolf, goose, porcupine, and at least 3 types of squirrel. Use pictures of the animals as markers. Have kids help with resources.

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 *Silly Goose's BIG Story*:

Have you ever found it hard to share being the leader? What did you do?

How would you help a friend out of such a big problem like Goose has with the wolf?

Have you ever made up a story? Can you tell it?

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 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:

The children have enjoyed hearing the book *Silly Goose's BIG Story* and have been pretending to be pirates, dinosaurs and kings. We have talked about the animals in the story. As you read this delightful book with your child, talk about how hard it is sometimes to share being the leader. Talk about how important it is to get other friends' ideas. On specific pages ask, “How do you think Gooses' friends feel?” Begin a conversation about how to play fair. As you go about town on errands or on walks, look for the animals from the story. Ask, “Where could we go to see a porcupine or a wolf?”