

The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



I Love My Mommy Because

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Infant/Toddler edition
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Overview of Book

In English and Spanish, babies explain why they love their mommies. The mommies are human and animals, but they all offer loving care, reassurance, safety, and play for their little ones. The labels on each page identify the animals and represent animals and nature from around the world.

Genre: Fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some from *I Love My Mommy Because* to introduce in your classroom:

love
hungry
ride

The book also offers animal names and habitat words.

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 HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Creative Arts
Item AA
(Pretend play)

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

Language, Literacy,
and Communication
Item L
(Speaking)

Social and Emotional
Development Item E
(Building relationships
with adults)

Reading Tips

This little book opens the door to rich conversations about how mommies always take care of their children and about many different kinds of animals. Take time to explore the ideas of how mommies keep babies safe and all of the ways mommies interact with their little ones throughout the day. During other readings, you might choose to focus on animal names.

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.

There are many routines represented in the illustrations, so it's natural to refer back to them as you move through the day.

"I'm keeping you nice and clean, just like the mama deer did with her fawn."

"I'm giving you a great big hug, just like mama panda and her cub."

Move like the various animals as you

Transition from one routine or activity to the next.

Around the Room

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

Create "habitats" where different animals might live.

Offer opportunities for the children to create representations of their moms or how they love their moms.

Display photos of moms and babies, animal and human, throughout the room.

Add mother and baby stuffed animals for the children.

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 *I Love My Mommy Because*:

How does your mommy take care of you?

What do you think mommy and baby are reading about?

What is the kitty saying to the mama cat?

I wonder where the koala bear and baby joey are going.

Why do you think the owl chicks are afraid of the dark?

*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](https://www.facebook.com/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:

We've been enjoying the new book *I Love My Mommy Because* and hope that you and your child have too. Some of the new words in the book that we've been talking about are "love," "hungry," and "ride." Throughout the day, we try to make references to the book, such as, "I'm keeping you nice and clean, just like the mama deer did with her fawn" and "I'm giving you a great big hug, just like mama panda and her cub." This book gives a very reassuring message about how all kinds of mommies love, care, and play with their children and keep them safe. Happy reading!