

The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



SQUEAK!

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Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

Can one little mouse wake up all the animals in the forest just by saying "Squeak"? Birds and fish, elk and eagles, bears and wolves, rams and bison—who else gets awakened? What are the sounds they make as they start their day? Now, where is that little mouse?

Genre: Picture book

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *SQUEAK!* to introduce in your room:

sound effect words and	
animal names from the book	
meadow	mountain
twittered	shenanigans
howl	launched
echoed	ruckus

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*)

Creative Arts
Item AA (*Pretend play*)

Science and
technology
Item DD
(*Natural and physical*)

Reading Tips

Let the children know they will help read the story by pretending to be the animals as they awaken. After reading a part with an animal sound or call, read it again after prompting, "How did those wolves sound? Yip, yip..." On the full-page spread of all the animals moving around, point to and encourage the children to imitate them. Then turn the page and whisper while reading the text of the mouse falling back asleep.

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.

Ask children to choose an animal from the story to imitate and move like during **Transitions**.

Use verbs from the story at **Large Group Time**. Encourage interpretations of terms like *tumble, float, lurch, launch, leap* and *swish*.

Pretend to be the little mouse at **Rest Time** and “snuggle in and drift off to sleep”.

Make a *ruckus* and invite *shenanigans* at **Outside Time**.

Around the Room

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

Place animal puppets and figures in the **Block Area** to encourage acting out the story.

Place other books in the **Book Area** that highlight the beauty and majesty of the outdoors. Examples include *Run Wild* by David Covell and *Where Butterflies Grow* by Joanne Ryder.

Add materials to the **Art Area** that encourage exploration of different textures like the animals in the story.

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 *SQUEAK!*:

What do you do when you first wake up?

If you were one of the animals from the story, which would you want to be? Why?

What is your favorite way to “make a ruckus”?

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 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 *SQUEAK!* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

As you and your child read *SQUEAK!* together, notice how one thing leads to another. Ask questions like, “How did the mouse saying ‘Squeak’ wake everyone up?” Together, at a leisurely pace, follow the squeak—saying, for example, “The squeak woke the chipmunks. Then what happened?” Together, talk about the animals and how they sound, where they live and sleep, and how their lives connect. Ask, “What happens when you wake up? What happens then?” Compare how your family members' lives all connect together to the animals in the wild. On a walk or sitting outside, listen to the birds or squirrels. Ask, “What's all the ruckus? What is that bird going to make happen?”