

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



**When the
Elephant Walks**

Written and illustrated by
Keiko Kasza

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

Elephant scares Bear who scares Crocodile who scares someone else. What is going on? Will the scaring ever end?

Genre: Picture book/fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some from *When the Elephant Walks* to introduce in your classroom:

animal names scurries
dashes flees

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*)

Physical Development
and Health
Item I (*Gross-motor skills*)

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

Mathematics
Item U
... ..

Reading Tips

Read this story with an upbeat tone. As you turn the pages, sound surprised that someone else has been scared! Ask, "Why is (Crocodile) scared of (Bear)?" or, "What did the (Wild Hog) do to scare (Mrs. Raccoon)?"

Read the end with humor. Ask, "What is everyone afraid of?" Add, "How will they solve this problem?" With each read aloud, ask the children to look for new details.

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.

Read the story at **Small Group Time** and use animal puppets to act it out.

At **Large Group Time**, have the children pretend to be the animals in the story by walking, running, scurrying, dashing, fleeing, and swimming.

Have different stacking toys for the children to explore at **Choice Time**. Include toys that stack largest to smallest.

Around the Room

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

Have actual photos of the animals from the story posted at children's level.

Encourage children to stack blocks in the **Block Area** at Choice Time.

Place small, medium and large size counting bears in the **Toy Area** for children to sort.

Place picnic props in the **House Area** for pretend play.

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 *When the Elephant Walks*:

How do you think a big animal like an elephant could be afraid of a little mouse?

Where do you think the Elephant was going while he was on his walk?

What do you think Wild Hog was going to eat on his picnic?

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 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 *When the Elephant Walks* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Have fun reading *When the Elephant Walks* with your child! As you read, talk about the activities that the animals are doing. For example, on the page with the Wild Hog you might ask, "Would it be fun to go on a picnic like Wild Hog in the story? He's swimming and has a picnic basket. What could we bring on a picnic?" or, "Should we try to fly a kite like Mouse?" If you get to the Potawatomi Zoo, bring the book and look for each animal.