

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Run Wild

Written and photography
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Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Run wild! Head outside and follow your dreams from sunrise to sunset! Explore the whole outdoors with your whole body! The children in this story run, swim, meet animals, and experience nature and all it has to offer—thunder, mud, rain, sand, and sun. Lets go! Just be home by dinnertime.

Genre: Realistic fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Run Wild* to introduce in your classroom:

sprout	daydreams
brave	rotten
explore	stumps
fiddlehead ferns	

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 F (*Building relationships
with other children*)

Creative Arts
Item Z (*Movement*)

Science & Technology
Item BB
(*Observing and classifying*)
Item DD
(*Natural and physical world*)

Reading Tips

Pay attention to the graphic elements as you read *Run Wild* to the group. Read with a loud volume for the upper case and large type, quieter for the smaller type. Notice the punctuation and be mindful as you use these to help tell this story. Have the children move around as you read. Hop on "hot" sand, carefully run in a circle for the woods scene, pretend to "be a fish in the salty sea." The read aloud can be active, leading to later pretending and movement activities.

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.

Read the story at **Large Group Time** and encourage the group to act out the story as you read. Encourage the children to float, swim, run, pretend the sand is hot, etc...

Invite the children to be an animal from the book at **Transition** times (clam, bear, fish, slug, butterfly...)

Re-create the book at **Outside Time**.

"Howl at the moon" like a wolf at **Departure** time.

Around the Room

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

Have water and sand in the **Sand and Water Area**. Have soil, water and tubs available for children to explore and make mud.

If you have a large gathering rug, pretend it is the ocean. Encourage children to swim and float and "be a fish in the salty sea."

Paint with mud in the **Art Area**. Provide a variety of natural materials for creative expression (such as sticks, twigs, leaves, or small shells).

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 *Run Wild*:

If you were in the book, what would you want to explore?
Why?

What are your favorite things to do outside?

What would you do at the beach?

How will you "run wild" when we go outside today?

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 *Run Wild* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

As you read *Run Wild* with your child, wonder out loud about the different places in the story the children run and play. Ask questions like, "What would you do if you were able to go play in the woods like the children in the story?" Take the time to have conversations about the woods, meadows, and beach and the animals there. Take a walk or go to one of the many parks or the Potawatomi Zoo and explore with your child. Race like the rabbit, look for bugs, pretend to be animals together. Bring the book along and read it together on a break from all the exploring you and your child will do.