

The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



Ten Thank–You Letters

Written and illustrated by
Daniel Kirk

Preschool edition
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Overview of Book

While Pig tries to write a thank-you letter to his Grandma, Rabbit keeps interrupting him for more paper, stamps and envelopes. Why? Because Rabbit loves Pig's idea about writing thank-you letters and can't stop thinking about people he wants to thank.

Genre: Fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some from *Ten Thank-You Letters* to introduce in your classroom:

ducky	pachyderm
deliver	inspiring
generous	

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 the HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Approaches To Learning
Item A
(Initiative and planning)

Physical Development
and Health
Item J
(Fine-motor skills)

Language, Literacy and
Communication
Item R
(Writing)

Reading Tips

Read Pig and Rabbit's letters as they appear in the story. At the end of the book ask, "Why is it called *Ten Thank-you Letters*? Were ten letters written? Let's check." Go through and have the children note when a letter is mentioned and keep a tally to double check. List all the people who Pig and Rabbit wrote to.

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.

At **Greeting Time**, ask the children, "Who helps out at our school that would enjoy getting a thank-you letter from us?" Use big paper and take dictation. Have all the children sign it and help deliver the letter.

Use **Small Group Time** to write thank-you letters. Have writing and drawing materials for children to choose how to express their thanks to someone they choose.

Letters written and "mailed" in the class mailbox at **Work Time** can be "delivered" each day before **Departure Time**

Around the Room

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

Supply the **Writing Area** with plenty of paper and envelopes. Laminate name cards for children to use as spelling references. Encourage children to "mail" their letters to peers in the classroom mailbox.

Place as many post office and mail carrier props as possible in the **House Area**.

Have the children help find a good place to put a classroom mailbox (either real or made from a box).

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 *Ten Thank-You Letters*:

Why do you think it's a good idea to write someone a thank-you letter?

To whom would you write a thank-you letter?

And for what would you thank them?

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 *Ten Thank-You Letters* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Ten Thank-You Letters is a good introduction to letter writing and a springboard to helping your child write and mail a real thank-you letter to a real person of your child's choice. It could be for a birthday or other gift, a nice deed done, or just for being the person they are. Let your child do the writing as best as he or she can. (A picture works well too!) If possible, go to the post or walk to the mailbox together so your child gets the whole sequence of letter writing and sending. You might also want to invite the person getting the letter to write your child back.