

The  
Early Years Count  
**Literacy**  
Connection



**Look Out  
Kindergarten,  
Here I Come!**

Story and photography  
by Nancy Carlson

*Preschool edition*

### Overview of Book

It's Henry's first day of kindergarten and he is really excited. He walks to school with his mom and together they talk about what it might be like. Then, they get there. Is it as fun as he hopes?

Genre: Fiction

### Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!* to introduce in your classroom:

pack	first
lonely	supplies
practice	welcome

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*

Social and Emotional  
Development

Item D  
(Emotions)

Item E  
(Building relationships with  
adults)

Item F  
(Building relationships with  
other children)

### Reading Tips

Read Henry's lines with wonder and excitement. Pause after he asks, "What do you think we'll do next?" Give your children time to offer suggestions. Make a list of what Henry might do based on the story. At the end, review the story and ask, "Do we do these? Let's look." Go through and make a check on the list of what the children already know how to do or are "practicing" like Henry. Mention, "You already know lots of things and have done a lot. You and Henry have a lot in common. Did Henry have fun after he gave it a try? Kindergarten will be fun, and not scary."

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.

Plan **Small Group** activities that involve the same materials as Henry's new teacher Mrs. Bradley used. For one activity, use items to count and sort alongside number cards for matching. For another, have beads or colored macaroni for children to string into patterns, designs or as a way for the children to count and make sets.

Develop a ball-passing/handling activity for **Large Group** time. Make it into a game like Henry's "gym teacher" does.

### **Around the Room**

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

Have available pick-up sticks and other similar toys (Barrel Full of Monkeys for example) in the **Toy Area**.

Take care of the babies in the **House Area** the way Henry takes care of himself. Brush their teeth, wash behind their ears, and give them a big breakfast. Have props to aid in the pretending.

Have name cards and paper in the **Writing Area** for children to practice theirs and their peers' names.

### **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 *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!*:

What does lonely mean? Have you ever felt that way?

What are some things you want to learn or do in kindergarten?

What do you like best about making new friends?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact*  
***The Family Connection:***

website—  
[www.famconn.org](http://www.famconn.org)

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### **@ 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 *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!* with their children. Here's a sample message to send:

Starting Kindergarten is a real milestone, for children and their families. Talk with your child as you read *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!* together. What is scary? What looks fun? Ask your child, "If you don't want to paint like Henry, what else could you do?" Be positive and show confidence. Say things like, "I can't wait to hear all your stories about what you learn and who your new friends are!" Remind your child as you read and re-read the book how Henry took the time to really see what it was like and ended up having fun in kindergarten.