

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



**Corduroy Takes
A Bow**

Written by Viola Davis
Illustrated by Jody Wheeler

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Lisa's mom takes her and Corduroy to the theater. Just before the show is ready to start, a tall man sits right in front of Lisa and her bear. When Corduroy accidentally lands on the floor, he decides to find the perfect spot where he can see the whole performance. What could possibly go wrong?

Genre: Picture book/Fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Corduroy Takes A Bow* to introduce in your classroom:

theater	performance
orchestra	chandelier
usher	stagehands

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)

Language, Literacy and
Communication
Item Q
*Book enjoyment and
knowledge)*

Creative Arts
Item Y
(Music)
Item AA
(Pretend play)

Reading Tips

Begin the read aloud by asking the children, "Has anyone been to a performance at a theater?" Relate any memory or impressions the children share to the story as you read. Whisper the lines the characters say while at the theater. Wonder, "Where is Corduroy going to sit?" and, "Now where is he going?" When Corduroy lands on the stage, ask the children to predict, "What will happen next?"

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.

Have the children “take a bow” at **Greeting Time**.

Provide people, animals and felt pieces at **Small Group** for children to explore and practice re-telling and acting out Mother Goose and nursery rhymes.

For **Transitions**, invite the children to pretend to be Corduroy after he falls out of Lisa's theater seat and to crawl everywhere.

Support performances or productions during **Work Time**.

Around the Room

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

Place extra costumes and props in the **House Area** to support children's plays and performances.

Turn the **Book Area** into a stage for performances. Add nursery rhymes and Mother Goose stories to read and to re-enact there.

Enhance instruments in the **Music Area** to support the creation of an orchestra.

Bring in boxes, paper tubes, egg cartons and other materials for prop-making in the **Art Area**.

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 *Corduroy Takes A Bow*:

What would you like to see at a theater—a play, a ballet, an orchestra, or a movie? Why?

What do you think would be a good story to do as a performance in a theater? What part would you like to play? Why?

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 *Corduroy Takes A Bow* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

While reading *Corduroy Takes a Bow* with your child, notice the familiar characters in the show Lisa, her mom and Corduroy see. Ask, “What Mother Goose rhyme is the king from?” or, “Who is this with the sheep?” Notice together how many people behind the scenes work hard to make a play successful. Talk about what set designers, stagehands and directors do. Ask your child which job sounds the most interesting and fun. Together, set up a little pretend theater like Lisa did at the end of the story. Have fun reading and acting out Mother Goose rhymes or other stories.