

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



**Bear and Bird
Explore the
Seashore**

Written and Illustrated by
Jonny Lambert

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

It's high tide at the beach. Perfect for Bear and Bird to search and discover wonderful ocean secrets and maybe build a sandcastle too.

Genre: Picture/Informational

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Bear and Bird Explore the Seashore Love* to introduce in your classroom:

Ocean and seashore animal names throughout the book

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

Approaches to Learning
Item A
(Initiative and planning)

Social and Emotional
Development Item F
(*Building relationships with
other children*)

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

Reading Tips

Let the children know that, "First, we will read the story, then we will go back and look at all the things they see and discover at the seashore." Read the text with the same inflections as the characters. They are in wonder as they explore. Ask questions like, "Why is there a fishing net around the turtle's head? How did that get there?" There is so much to see in this book it will be important to linger on pages the children are interested in. Go back and look at the items in the margins and recall the story together.

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.

Have the children examine and sort ocean and seashore items at **Small Group Time**. Provide magnifiers and tweezers. Refer to the book for vocabulary and identification. Sort by **in** the ocean or **on** the beach.

Use the book as a reference and move like animals and creatures in the book. Scuttle like a hermit crab, swoop like a gull, sway in the current like seaweed, leap like the dolphin and orca and pretend to walk on hot sand for **Large Group Time**.

Around the Room

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

Add other informational and story books about the ocean, beaches, undersea exploration and seashells to the **Book Area**.

Paint with seashells and make a beach scene collage in the **Art Area**.

Add shells, ocean animals and boats to the **Sand and Water Area**- with either sand or water.

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 *Bear and Bird Explore the Seashore*:

Bear and Bird are friends who spend the day together at the seashore. What do you like to do with your friends?

What was the best thing Bear and Bird discovered? Why do you think that?

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 *Bear and Bird Explore the Seashore* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

While reading the story with your child, take time to talk about Bear and Bird being friends and that they chose to spend the day together at the seashore. Ask, "What do you like to do with your friends?" Slowly look at each page and "discover" the critters and other seashore items along with Bear and Bird. Stop to linger on pages your child seems especially interested in. "What do you like on this page? Tell me about it." Talk about how many different animals live at the seashore. This is the type of book you can enjoy over and over together and find something new each time.