

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Enola's Best Friend

Written and illustrated by
Katie Kordesh

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Enola loves visiting her Grandma Mimi! They stay up late, dance, play with Grandma Mimi's puppy Hoagie and go swimming. When Grandma Mimi made Enola a hot dog lunch, Enola could not bring herself to eat the hot dog. Instead of eating the hot dog, Enola made it her new best friend.

Genre: Picture

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Enola's Best Friend* to introduce in your classroom:

scowl	pout
attention	ignore
forgive	sensation

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 D (*Emotions*)

Creative Arts
Item AA (*Pretend play*),
Item X (*Art*)

Reading Tips

Ask the children to tell you about what friend means to them. Tell the children that the story is about a little girl who has a best friend, but it might surprise them who the friend is. Stop and ask, "Look at the people watching them walk down the street. Enola got their attention. What do you think these people are thinking?" After Hoagie eats Hot Dog and Enola gets so upset, ask, "How would you feel about this? What if Hot Dog was your best friend?" Give the children the opportunity to think about this and respond. At the end, wonder, "Will Enola make friends with it or eat it?"

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.

Do sorting activities for **Small Group**. Use real items and photos. Include food vs. non-food, pout/scowl vs happy faces, real dogs vs. hot dogs.

Have child-sized/toy golf clubs and plastic golf balls for **Outside Time**.

Start a conversation-and a list at **Greeting Time** about foods children have not tried but want to try.

Around the Room

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

Add "Sophie's Squash" by Pat Zietlow Miller to the **Book Area** to compare the characters and storylines.

Add blankets and pillows to the **House Area** to encourage fort building.

Have a large supply of bingo markers in the **Art Area** for children to draw with.

Add mixing bowls, whisks and hand mixers to the **Sand and Water 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 *Enola's Best Friend*:

What food have you tried that you were surprised that you liked?

Enola did many things with her new best friend. What do you like to do with your friends?

Have you ever felt so upset like Enola after Hoagie ate Hot Dog? What did you do about 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—
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@ 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 *Enola's Best Friend* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

As you and your child read this silly story, talk about how Grandma Mimi loves Enola. When Hoagie eats Hot Dog and Enola gets so upset ask, "Have you ever felt this way?" When Grandma Mimi tries to apologize and help Enola get ready for bed, look at their expressions. Notice Enola scowl and pout and then hide during the story. "What do you think Enola is thinking about? Is there a way to make it all better?" Talk about how strong feelings are always telling us something. Enola realizes she misses Mimi and that is a bigger feeling than being angry. Share about "missing" those you love.