

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Play with me

Words by Kat Chen
Illustrations by Lorraine Nam

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

In this simple story children are invited to join in on a picnic with a little boy and his plush rabbit. Each page offers a chance to make choices and participate in the fun. The illustrations are simple and familiar and each page represents a different way of experiencing a fun activity.

Genre: Board book

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Play with me* to introduce in your classroom:

Picnic	Drink
Socks	Ears
Plane	Clouds
Clean up	Tomorrow

Each time you read the book, highlight 2 or 3 words. Use age-appropriate definitions and/or refer to the illustrations to help children understand each word's meaning.

Use the new words throughout the day, reminding children, "That's a word from our story!"

Connecting with HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage

Approaches to Learning
Item A
(Initiative and planning)

Creative Arts
Item AA
(Pretend play)

Science and Technology
Item BB
(Observing and classifying)

Reading Tips

This is a book that invites lingering. Pace the story reading so that you can spend time on each page, asking the question and supporting any answers children might offer. Connect the ideas and illustrations to children's own lives—have *they* ever been on a picnic? Do *they* have a favorite juice or cookie? Who would they like to have a picnic with?

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. During each reading the adult can 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.

Use the idea of planning and carrying out a picnic for group time. Get ready for a picnic—what classroom materials would you bring? Move to the picnic 'spot,' how can you get there and what do you do once you're there?

At Outside Time talk with the children about what they see in the clouds.

At a transition invite the children to find a favorite plush or baby doll and carry it with them.

Around the Room

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

Add 'picnic' type items to the House Area or Toy Area. Include baskets or bags to 'pack up' for the picnic.

Add items for a tea party, or other ways that children can invite others to join them for a celebration.

Add some new books to the Book Area along with old favorites and invite children to bring you the book they like best.

Active Engagement

Reading with infants and toddlers is all about relationship, connection, and words.

Slow down and allow the children to set the pace. They may want to linger on certain pages.

Draw children in to the story with your comments, questions, and pauses.

Use the questions in the book as conversation starters. Your children may not be able to answer them yet, but they will enjoy the chance to listen to you ask and wait for their response.

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](https://www.facebook.com/famconnsjc)

phone—
574-237-9740

@ 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 *Play with me* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

The book title says it all: Play with me! This book is a fun reminder of the importance of spending time together without an 'agenda' or a need to get things done. Use it as an inspiration to have a picnic, inside or outside. The questions posed will spark 'conversations' and back and forth communications with your child.