

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



Steppin' Out:
Jaunty rhymes for
playful times

Written by Lin Oliver
illustrated by Tomie dePaola

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

For all the goofy, fun or ordinary events young children experience and enjoy, there's a poem for that!

Genre: Poetry

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Steppin' Out* to introduce in your classroom:

jaunty	flicker
folks	strut
flashy	slicker

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

Language, Literacy and
Communication
Item M (Listening and
comprehension),
Item N (*Phonological
awareness*)

Creative Arts
Item Z (*Movement*)

Mathematics
Item S (*Numbers and
counting*)

Reading Tips

Let the children know these are poems about activities or events they may be very familiar with. Choose 2 or 3 to read at a time. Let them know each title and (for example) ask, "This one is called, "At The Mall". Has anyone been to a mall? What did you do there?" Then read the poem. Give the children time to hear the rhymes. Ask for input to compare experiences. Do similarly with each poem. Make time for children's input. Pause as you read to allow the children to "complete" the rhyme.

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.

Use the movements in the poem, "Dance Class" for **Large Group Time**. Encourage using the terms: strut, shake, sway, wave your arms, stomp, spin, twirl, leap and click your heels.

For **Small Group Time**, pretend the items in children's baskets are "Sunday Pancakes" and see how high children can stack their "pancakes". Practice counting with 1:1 correspondence.

Around the Room

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

Read "My Day" poem. Make sure there is red, yellow and blue paint at the easel in the **Art Area**.

Read "The Library" poem and ask children what they want to read about and place those books in the **Book Area**.

Read "At The Car Wash" poem. Add cars and vehicles, soap and wash cloths 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 *Steppin' Out*:

After reading "The Elevator" ask, "Do you like elevators or escalators? Why?"

After reading, "My Day", ask, "What is your favorite part about going to school?"

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 *Steppin' Out* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

After reading a particular poem with your child, ask open-ended questions that relate. For example, at bedtime read "Day's End" and ask, "What daytime memories will you have tonight?" Before going food shopping, read "Super Market". Together with your child, use or replace the food items in the poem with ones you have on your list. Read "A Sandbox Scene" and ask your child how they feel after each stanza. "What will the children do? What would you do?" Enjoy the conversations with your child that each little poem helps to create.