

The  
Early Years Count  
**Literacy**  
Connection



## Maple

Written and Illustrated  
by Lori Nichols

*Infant/Toddler edition*  
June 2018

### Overview of Book

Even before Maple is born, her parents plant a maple tree in her honor. The tree becomes Maple's favorite playmate, until the day she is surprised with a baby sister.

Genre: Fiction

### Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to young children. Here are some from *Maple* to introduce to the children in your class:

jacket  
surprising  
magical

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 HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Social Studies  
Item FF  
(*Knowledge of self and others*)

Science and  
technology  
Item DD  
(*Natural and physical world*)

Creative Arts  
Item Z  
(*Movement*)

### Reading Tips

Take your children outside and read under a tree. Afterwards have everyone lie on his or her back and watch the leaves on the trees dance. Have the children pick a song to sing to the tree. Invite the children to bring baby dolls to hold while you read the story.

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.

Move like a tree during **Transition Time**.

At **Group Time** bring in a basket of leaves to explore.

At **Group Time** plant a maple tree seed in a small cup. Have children water it and watch it grow.

During **Outside Time** collect different types of leaves and compare them, using words like bigger and smaller, smooth or bumpy.

### **Around the Room**

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

Add baby items and books about families to the **House Area**. Ask children how they would help take care of a new brother or sister.

Add leaves to the **Art Area** for children to trace, do rubbings, or make a collage.

Fill the **Sand Table** with leaves. Ask children what sounds the leaves make and how the different leaves feel.

### **Open-ended Questions**

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These "wondering aloud" questions support children's developing focus and attention as they encourage young children's capacity to make connections and see possibilities.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Maple*:

- Why do you think your name is the perfect fit?
- What do you think a tree looks like when it sways?
- What do you notice about Maple and her tree?
- What do you think it feels like to be a tree?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact **The Family Connection:***

website—  
[www.famconn.org](http://www.famconn.org)

Facebook—  
@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 *Maple* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

We've had fun reading *Maple* with the children and making all sorts of tree connections. When you are on a walk around your neighborhood, talk with your child about the various types of trees that you see. Encourage your child to touch and smell the trees; ask questions like "What do you see?" "How does it smell?" "What does it feel like?" The words we have been emphasizing from the story are "jacket," "surprising," and "magical." We've also been exploring leaves and swaying like trees.