

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



**Llama Llama
hide & seek**

Written by Anna Dewdney

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

Llama Llama has lost his beloved toy Fuzzy Llama! Children are invited to help Llama Llama search for his toy in all the usual places. The rhymes and the lift-the-flap on each page offer engagement and fun.

Genre: Board book, rhyming, lift-the-flap

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some from *Llama Llama hide & seek* to introduce in your classroom:

blocks care
spread drawer

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 1.5

Approaches to
Learning
Item A
*(Initiative and
planning)*

Social and Emotional
Development
Item D
(Emotions)

Science and
Technology
Item CC
*(Experimenting,
predicting, drawing)*

Reading Tips

Invite the children to feel Llama Llama's feelings about losing his toy. Use emotion words as you read the words on each page. Emphasize the seeking—where does Llama Llama look and what does he find there? He keeps going and doesn't give up!

Don't worry about reading each page, but help children to get a sense of story, what comes next? This is a lift-the-flap book so it might work best in a one on one or very small group so that children who want to lift the flaps can do so. There are rhymes here too, so emphasize those as you have fun reading.

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.

Play 'hide and seek' games at Group time. Invite the children to 'find' you as you 'hide' somewhere in the room or outside. Of course your 'hiding' will be obvious, but the children will still enjoy the 'finding!'

Invite other opportunities for lifting flaps or strengthening fine motor skills—put clips onto the sides of coffee cans, fold cardstock in half to lift up, offer paper to 'crumple.'

Around the Room

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

Place plush toys around the room for the children to find.

Place mirrors at children's level so they can easily see faces—of themselves and others. Play peek-a-boo in the mirrors!

Open-ended Questions

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

Use a questioning tone as you point to some of the illustrations or read some of the words.

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

Infants may not be able to answer questions yet, but they will quickly appreciate the 'back and forths' with books.

*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 *ABC Look at Me* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Llama Llama hide & seek has some drama—will he find his beloved toy?? Invite your child to engage in the seeking and the finding, offering reassurance that Fuzzy Llama will be found. If your child can't yet lift the flaps model how to do so, reading the words as you lift the flap. The rhymes are fun and the story is short but if your child squirms away or looks uninterested, simply put the book down—the squirming says, "All done for now!"