The Early Years Count

Literacy Connection

Jake at Gymnastics

Written and Illustrated by Rachel Isadora

Infant/Toddler edition
October 2018

Overview of Book

Jake and his diverse group of friends love their action-packed gymnastics class. They stretch, tumble, balance, turn somersaults and so much more. This is the perfect book to introduce children to the joy of movement and the fun of gymnastics.

Genre: Fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some from *Jake at Gymnastics* to introduce in your classroom:

stretch	rotating stretch
side split	back bend
front split	parallel bar
tumble	handstand

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

Physical Development and Health
Item I
(Gross-motor skills)

Language, Literacy and Communication
Item M
(Listening and comprehension)

Reading Tips

This is an action-packed book that will encourage your class to get up and move! Try reading the one-word exclamations from the characters in an excited voice. The children will be even more engaged in the story.

Take this book outside to read on a nice day and have the children imitate Jake's gymnastics moves together.

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.

During **transitions** pretend to walk on a beam, jump, and fly like an eagle.

During **Large Group** have your class try the different gymnastic moves that Jake and his friends learn in class.

At **Work Time**, have the dolls or people in the block area do handstands or other gymnastics moves.

Around the Room

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

Put out a board and mats in the gross-motor area for children to practice walking across the balance beam or tumbling.

Post photos of the children trying out the gymnastics moves.

Put *Jake at Gymnastics* on display in the book area so the children can easily find it on their own.

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 *this book:*

(Before reading book) What types of movement do you think the children will do in this book?

Why do you think the children are excited for gym time to begin?

What type of gymnastics activity would you like to try? Why?

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 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 *Jake at Gymnastics* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Jake at Gymnastics has fantastic action words like "stretch" and "tumble." As you read the story with your child, act out some of the text of the story. For example, use arm movements to demonstrate how you "spread your wings and fly out the door" or how you do a somersault. Talk about your favorite gymnastics activities. See which ones you can act out with things around the house. Visit a park on a sunny day and see how long you can hang from the monkey bars.