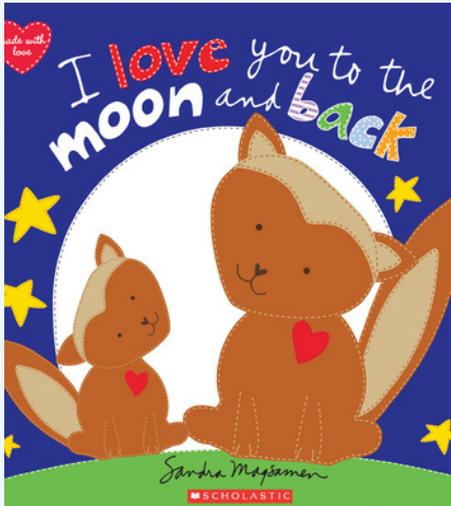


Early Literacy Activities for Educators



Setting the Stage for Your Read Aloud



I Love You to the Moon and Back

Written and illustrated by Sandra Magsamen

This sweet board book with rhyming text and pastel illustrations is the perfect way to remind little ones just how loved they are! If you wish upon a great big star, I'll wish too, and be thankful for who you are. Wherever life may take you, whichever path or track, remember I'll love you to the moon and back!

For Infants & Toddlers

- Remember to set up your environment for your read-aloud.
- The focus of the initial read-aloud is for children to enjoy a good story.
- Use give and take interactions to promote language development.
- Have fun! Children enjoy books when you enjoy them.

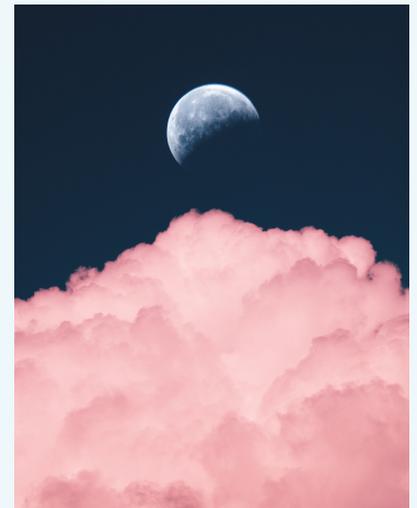
Promoting Language and Early Literacy

Emphasize the following words or phrases by pointing to the word, acting out the word, and telling the children more about the word.

- Love
- Sky
- Help
- Friends
- Heart
- Moon

Suggested questions to ask the children during your read-aloud:

- Do you see the red heart? Please show me.
- Who is someone that loves you very much?
- Can you pretend to fly to the moon? Could you show me?
- Who are your friends? Tell me.



While children are answering questions, notice the following reading foundational skills:

0-12 months:

- Infants make eye contact with images on the pages as you point them out. Infants watch as the pages are turned.

13-24 months:

- Mobile infants and young toddlers show growing interest in exploring the book. Children want to turn pages or point at pictures in the book.

25-36 months:

- Older toddlers are beginning to understand the connection between the book and personal experiences. Children can respond to questions using two or three words to form simple sentences.

If you would like more information on how to use this book in other ways, please reach out to your CCR&R Quality Coach for more assistance! www.tnccrr.org

Scan QR code for a video of I Love You to the Moon and Back being read aloud





Literacy Around The Room

Incorporate **I Love You to the Moon and Back** into other parts of your day!



Routine

Use daily routines to show love and care, help children feel safe and connected, and prepare children for learning by using responsive interactions.

- Stay in tune with the child's non-verbal and verbal communication.
- Stay on the child's level and exaggerate facial expressions.
- Add a light touch to strengthen the connection with the child.
- When using language, include gestures to help the child understand the word's meaning.
- Use an excited tone with a joyful voice to hold the child's attention.

Social and Emotional Development

The following activities support social and emotional development and strengthen the relationship between children and educators.

- Talk, read, and sing.
- Play simple social games such as peek-a-boo while changing diapers.
- Respond to verbal and non-verbal communication from children. *I see you are tired. You are rubbing your eyes. Let me get you ready for a nap.*

While completing activities, notice the following:

- Infants pay attention and respond to communication.
- Mobile infants and young toddlers assert independence while also asking for help.
- Older toddlers seek positive responses from the educator and repeat newly gained skills.

Music

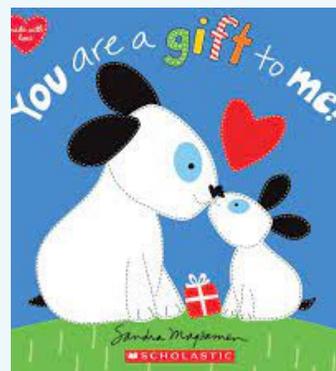
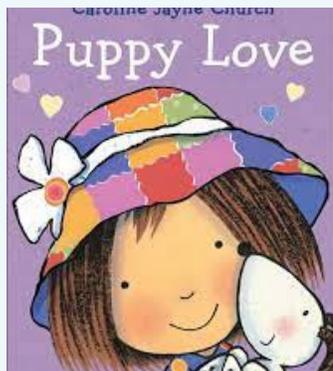
Songs and finger play help children strengthen small and large muscle groups while working on memory skills.

- Suggested songs: Pat-a-cake, Itsy Bitsy Spider, and This Little Piggy Went to the Market.

While singing and using finger play, notice the following:

- Infants respond to facial expressions and voices by watching your face and listening to you.
- Mobile infants and young toddlers show an increased understanding of the words and remember some hand motions after several times playing.
- Older toddlers understand the sequence of the song and follow more complex instructions.

Did your children enjoy this interactive read? Other books to check out!



"When a teacher reads aloud, it is a bonding between the teacher, the children, the books, and the act of reading."

-Lester L. Laminack