

**Dads & Kids Book Club**  
**Night Driving**  
*Session Outline*

**Story Related Outcomes for Dads:**

1. Dads will increase their awareness of different ways they can encourage literacy skills in a variety of settings (e.g., driving in a car).
2. Dads will increase their awareness about the emotional tone of a story and develop skills to expand stories and talk about feelings with young children.

**Story Related Outcomes for Children:**

1. Children will be introduced to a role model.
2. Children will expand their vocabulary through words introduced in the story.

**Schedule of Activities**

Warm-in Time (10 minutes)

- Welcome, name-tags
- Scavenger Hunt – Refer to the resource page for scavenger hunt activities

Large Group Story Reading(20 minutes)

- Introductions
- Song – Refer to the resource page for song suggestions
- Introduce and Read the Book – *Night Driving*

Dads & Kids Activity Time (30 minutes)

- *Snack* - S'mores to cook in the microwave & lemonade mix
- *Dramatic Play* - Cars & Blocks
- *Craft* - Name Plaques on wood with thumb-tacks
- *Science* - Make coffee clay (Recipe)
- *Art* - Alphabet books- Stick on letters and drawing pictures that start with\_
- *Literacy/Writing Activity* – Child & father remember a special trip they took together, and dad writes down a few sentences to help them remember

Dads Discussion Time (25 minutes)

1. Parent Session for Dads
  - See Parent Session Plan
  - Hand out books and tip sheet for *Night Driving*
2. Early Childhood Session for Children
  - Children continue to work on projects – snack, art, etc.
  - Group time – retell the story and play an alphabet game

Closing (5 minutes)

- Thank yous, reminder for next session, goodbye

**Dads and Kids Book Club**  
**Night Driving**  
*Tips for Reading*

**Helping your child to enjoy the story**

1. Read through the story by yourself to get comfortable with the words and the flow of the language.
2. Read through the story with your child and be open to questions that he/she may have.
3. Have fun with the story and use sound effects-make the noise of the flat tire, sing a cowboy song.
4. Share stories of when you were a child that were triggered by the story.

**Helping your child to understand the story**

5. Use expression to convey the feelings in the story. For example when the dad is talking about his own dad who is dead and feels quiet and sad.
6. Comment on the pictures or ask a question related to a picture.
7. Ask your child to connect the story to events that they have experienced –like driving at night, going on a long trip in the car, or going camping.
8. When your child is familiar with the story (after several readings) ask them to predict what happens next in the story.

**Helping your child to learn new words**

9. Ask your child about words that you think they may not know like outhouse, jukebox, gulch, thermos, attendant or Polaris – and be prepared to explain them.

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*Parent Session*

**Ice-Breaker/Introductions**

- Did this story bring back any memories of a car trip with you and your father?

**Story Sharing** – Discuss the book

- Hand out books and recap the story - As a father and son drive into the night, they watch the sunset, talk about baseball, sing cowboy songs, and even change a flat tire before pitching camp at daybreak.
- What kind of relationship did the father have with his son?
- Discuss the different parts of the story with literacy components
  - Storytelling
  - Listening (to the radio)
  - Singing (cowboy songs)
  - Alphabet Games
  - Writing (finger drawing the Big Dipper)
- Can you think of some literacy activities, like the ones in the story, that you have done with your child on car trips?

**Story Reading**

- What strategies did you notice the story reader using to get the children involved?
- How did they work with your child?
- Can you think of some personal stories or memories of times in a car with your father, that you can share with your child as you discuss the book.
- Distribute and discuss “Tips for Reading *Night Driving*.”

**Closure**

- Summarize some of the major points in the story.
- Encourage the fathers to try some of the literacy activities from the story in their car trips with their child.
- Encourage the fathers to talk to their child about their dad, and their experiences growing up.
- Have fun reading the book and sharing family stories and memories about trips.

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*Materials List*

**Art Project - Letter Book**

- Small books with cardstock cover and 5-6 pages of plain white paper folded and stapled together
- Stick on letters to begin words
- Fine tip markers or colored pencils for writing and drawing pictures

**Cooking - S'mores**

- Chocolate bars, marshmallows and graham crackers
- Microwave oven
- Small paper plates

**Science - Coffee Clay**

- Instant coffee, water, flour and salt
- Mixing Bowls, wooden spoon and a fork
- Plastic bags for storage
- Recipe for the coffee clay (listed below)  
2 teaspoons of instant coffee  
3/8 cup of warm water  
1 cup of flour  
1/4 cup of salt

Place coffee in one bowl and add the water, stir to dissolve

In a second bowl mix flour and salt and make a hole in the flour mixture pour coffee and mix. Knead until shiny. After molding, clay can either be stored in a plastic bag for reuse or hardened by baking in an oven at 300 degrees for 1 hour

**Craft-Name Plaques**

- 1" x 4" wood cut into 10-12" pieces
- markers
- different colored tacks for decoration
- small hammers

**Dramatic Play - Cars and Blocks**

- Small Cars
- Wooden blocks for building

**Literacy/Writing Activity**

- Paper or cardstock
- Pencils, crayons or markers