

Dads & Kids Book Club
Octopus Hug
Session Outline

Story Related Outcomes for Dads:

1. Dads will understand the value of active play in developing positive father-child relationships.
2. Dads will be able to make up their own active games to try with their child.

Story Related Outcomes for Children:

1. Children will be introduced to a father figure who models active and creative play as a way to connect with children.
2. Children will expand their understanding of familiar words through the story and related activities.

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 – *Octopus Hug*

Dads & Kids Activity Time (30 minutes)

- *Cooking* - Fruit Kabob-uses 3-4 different fruits on a stick
- *Dramatic Play* – Gym mats and active games
- *Craft* - Octopus Sock Puppets
- *Science* - Opaque and transparent materials to experiment with
- *Art* - Drawing things they do with dad/grandpa
- *Literacy/Writing Activity* – Read nature books/Books about sea animals

Dads Discussion Time (25 minutes)

1. Parent Session for Dads
 - See Parent Session Plan
 - Hand out books and tip sheet for *Octopus Hug*
2. Early Childhood Session for Children
 - Children continue to work on projects – snack, art, etc.
 - Group story – retell the story *Octopus Hug*

Closing (5 minutes)

- Thank yous, reminder for next session, goodbye

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Tips for Reading

Helping your child to enjoy the story

1. Read through the story to become familiar with the words and the spirit and rhythm of the story.
2. Read through the story with your child and be open to trying out a game or two from the story. Ask your child if he/she might like to play a game and try it after the story.
3. Have fun with the story - sing the songs and make the sounds of the tree falling and the riding machine.

Helping your child to understand the story

4. Talk about the children's feelings at the beginning of the story and how they changed when they started to play games with their dad.
5. Talk about the games that you play with your child and why he/she likes them.
6. When your child is familiar with the story (after several readings) ask him/her to predict which game they will play next in the story.
7. Talk with your child about games that you used to play as a child and what made them both a little scary and also fun.

Help your child to learn new words

8. Make up funny names for games that you play with your child.
9. Play a game like animal bridge and add different animals.
10. Talk about some of the words that may be new to your child like clambered, scampered and scrambled and describe what they mean or act them out.
11. Use more familiar words like octopus and lullaby, and extend their understanding by giving examples of different types of octopi or singing other lullabies.

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Parent Session

Ice-Breaker/Introductions

- What was something that you liked about this book?

Story Sharing – Discuss the book

- Hand out books and recap the story – When mom goes out for the evening, dad and the kids invent games with fun and laughter.
- Did the story bring back any memories of your own childhood with your father?
 - What games did you play?
 - What do you remember about those times?
- What games do you play with your child?
 - What do children learn from this type of play?
- What did the father do to change the mood of the children when they were fighting or bored?
- What lessons do you see in this book?

Story Reading

- What strategies did the story reader use to get the children involved?
- How did they work with your child?
- What kinds of games could you do with your child after reading this book?
- Distribute and discuss “Tips for Reading *Octopus Hug*.”

Closure

- Books can lead to new ideas for activities with kids.
- Fathers should take time to be playful with their children.
- Think about fun physical activities you can do with your kids.
- Have fun reading the book with the whole family.

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Materials List

Cooking - Fruit Kabobs

- Cutting boards
- 2 small knives for cutting fruit
- 3-4 different kinds of fruits- easy to cut (e.g. strawberries, bananas, pears, etc.)
- Small wooden skewers or tooth picks to put fruit on.

Craft - Octopus Puppets - Make a puppet out of old socks

- A collection of dark crew socks with the ankle section cut into 6-8 strips for octopus tentacles
- Sets of plastic eyes
- A couple of containers of different colored glitter for making mouths and decorating the “body”
- Tacky glue

Art - Drawing activities they do with dad

- Large sheets of white paper
- 2-3 sets of markers for drawing and writing about active games with dad

Science - Transparent & opaque materials- create a dark space to experiment with a flashlight and different materials to see if the light shines through.

- Blanket or dark sheet to put over a table or frame to create a dark space for the “experiment”
- Flashlight
- A set of different materials- e.g., paper, plastic and different colors to see which are transparent or “see-through” and which are not.

Dramatic Play - Create a space for dads and kids to try out some of the games from *Octopus Hug*.

- Two gym mats on the floor to help define the space and make it safe

Literacy/Writing Activity - Nature books about sea animals like octopi

- Bring 5-6 books that give information and pictures of sea animals
- Introduce books as a source of information about how sea animals live