

Dads & Kids Book Club
Owl Moon
Session Outline

Story Related Outcomes for Dads:

1. Dads will understand how book content reflects values and how to use books to teach about values.
2. Dads will practice use of different sounds as a way to engage their child.

Story Related Outcomes for Children:

1. Children will be introduced to a father figure who teaches about animals and nature through the story.
2. Children will expand their vocabulary through the story and other literacy 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 – *Owl Moon*

Dads & Kids Activity Time (30 minutes)

- *Snack* - Hot chocolate with whipped cream and trail mix
- *Dramatic Play* - Camping theme with tent and camping props
- *Craft* - Furry Creatures
- *Science* - Nature books/Books about birds
- *Art* - Water colors painting of the woods at night
- *Literacy/Writing Activity* - Word Book - Make a book and then write down one new word every day for the next week.

Dads Discussion Time (25 minutes)

1. Parent Session for Dads
 - See Parent Session Plan
 - Hand out books and tip sheet for *Owl Moon*.
2. Early Childhood Session for Children
 - Children continue to work on projects – snack, art, etc.
 - Group time – retell the story and sing “When Animals Get Up in the Evening” again

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 over the story and practice the rhythm and flow of the words.
2. Read the story in a quiet voice to reflect the tone of silence of the night woods as the girl and her dad search for an owl.
3. Practice the owl calls and add other sound effects such as the train..”a train whistle blew, long and low like a sad, sad song”.
4. After reading the book a few times, ask your child to look for some of the animals and birds in the pictures. Some are hidden and will be harder to find because they blend in with the woods.

Helping your child to understand the story

5. Ask questions about owling. Why did they go out at night? Why did they have to be so quiet?
6. Ask questions about nighttime and what animals, birds or people are awake at night and what they do during the night.
7. Share stories or adventures with nature that you had as a child.
8. Talk about the different feelings that the girl expresses as she walks with her father in the cold night woods....cold, scared, hopeful.

Helping your child to learn new words

9. Talk about some of the words in the story like shrugged, crunched, threading, to see what your child understands.
10. Talk about the pictures that the author paints with words. For example, “trees stood like giant statues”, “eyes got cloudy”, and “echo came threading back”.

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Parent Session

Ice-Breaker/Introductions

- What was one strategy that the story reader used that got your child's attention?

Story Sharing – Discuss the book

- Hand out books and recap the story - On a winter's night under a full moon, a father and daughter trek into the woods to see the Great Horned Owl.
- Discuss in Pairs
 - Did the story bring back any memories of your childhood when your father or other male figures shared his knowledge with you in some way?
 - What did you like about those times?
 - What kinds of values did you learn about nature from your dad?
- Large Group Discussion Questions
 - What are the lessons that the book teaches about nature?
 - What lessons do you want to teach your child about nature?
 - What kind of relationship did the father have with his daughter? How could you tell?

Story Reading

- Before distributing the tips, ask the dads if they can think of anything special they would do when reading this book to their child.
- Distribute and discuss “Tips for Reading *Owl Moon*.”

Closure

- Think about the messages or values that a book like *Owl Moon* can teach.
- Think about how special one-to-one time can be for both you and your child.
- Have fun reading the book with your child.

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Materials List

Cooking

- Hot Chocolate & Whipping Cream
 - Cups that can be put in a microwave oven
 - Pitcher of water
 - Hot chocolate mix (to add to hot water)
 - Microwave oven-Test to see how long it takes to heat water to safe temperature
 - Can of whipping cream to add to the hot chocolate
- Trail Mix-Create a mixture with 4-6 different ingredients
 - Possible ingredients (raisins, pretzels, chocolate chips, dried cranberries etc.)
 - Small plastic bags to put mix into to take home
 - Recipe cards with instructions for amounts of each ingredient

Craft - Furry Creatures - create a pretend animal

- Large craft sticks or tongue depressors
- Strips of fake fur cut to 1" x 6" lengths
- Set of black or colored pipe cleaners- can cut these to size to create legs by wrapping around the craft stick
- Small plastic eyes
- Set of markers to make mouths or other parts
- Tacky glue for attaching eyes and fur

Art - Watercolor paintings of the woods

- Easel with watercolor paper
- Small and large paint brushes (can also add a sponge)
- 2 sets of watercolors with a small container of water

Science

- Nature books about different kinds of birds. Find 4-6 books from the library. Introduce non-fiction books as a way of learning interesting facts about different birds where they live and what their food is, etc.

Literacy/Writing Activity

- Books made from 1 folded page of cardstock & 2 plain white pages folded and stapled to make booklets
- Colored pencils or markers for writing and drawing in the books

Dramatic Play - Camping Theme

- Tent that is self supporting
- Camping cooking utensils- bowls & cups
- Backpacks with flashlights
- Sleeping bags
- Pretend campfire (cardboard blocks and metal grate)