

**Dads & Kids Book Club**  
**Two Old Potatoes and Me**  
*Session Outline*

**Story Related Outcomes for Dads:**

1. Dads will understand the value of books that provide factual content of a family story.
2. Dads will practice using a story to talk about values and life lessons.

**Story Related Outcomes for Children:**

1. Children will understand the care and patience needed to grow potatoes.
2. Children will practice counting/math skills.
3. Children will understand the growing cycle as part of the story sequence.

**Schedule of Activities**

Warm-in Time (10 minutes)

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

Group Time/Story Reading (20 minutes)

- Introductions
- Song – Refer to the resource page for song suggestions
- Introduce and Read the Book – *Two Old Potatoes and Me*

Dads & Kids Activity Time (30 minutes)

- Cooking- Making mashed potatoes with toppings (butter, sour cream, Cheese)
- Dramatic Play- Farming theme set up
- Craft- Painting clay pots for growing grass seeds
- Science- Books on Growing things
- Art- Potato Prints
- Writing Activity-Write mashed potato recipe on card to make at home

Dads Discussion Time (25 minutes)

1. Parent Session for Dads
  - See Parent Session Plan
  - Hand out books and tip sheet for *Two Old Potatoes and Me*
2. Early Childhood Session for Children
  - Children continue to work on projects – snack, art, etc.
  - Group story and song time

Closing (5 minutes)

- Thank yous, reminder for next session, goodbye

**Dads and Kids Book Club**  
**Two Old Potatoes and Me**  
*Tips for Reading*

**Helping your child to enjoy the story**

1. Read through the story to become familiar with the word patterns and the rhythm of the story.
2. Ask your child to help you with the months of the story at the top of some of the pages.
3. Ask your child to help with the counting of the potatoes at the end of the book.

**Helping your child to understand the story**

4. Talk about the girl's reactions to the old potatoes. Why were they gross?
5. Talk about the steps in getting a garden ready for planting.
6. When your child is familiar with the story (after several readings) ask them to predict what will happen next with the potato plants.
7. Talk with your child about growing vegetables and flowers and how long it takes. Try growing something from seed.

**Helping your child to learn new words**

8. Explain words to your child that may be new such as compost, potato beetle, withered, periwinkle and nutmeg.
9. In talking about the story extend the conversation to talk about growing different fruits or vegetables to introduce new words.
10. The layout of print is unusual in this story. Use your finger to point out words and phrases as you read them.

**Dads and Kids Book Club**  
**Two Old Potatoes and Me**  
*Parent Session*

**Ice-Breaker/Introductions**

- What was something that you liked about the book?

**Story Sharing** – Discuss the book

- Hand out books and recap the story – After a young girl finds two old potatoes at her father’s house, they plant and tend them to see if they will have new potatoes by fall.
- How is this book different from other books that we have read?
- Did the story bring back any memories of your own childhood and growing things?
- Have you involved your child in a project like this? How did it work?
- What did the father in this book do to encourage his child?
- What can children learn from this type of project?
- What other themes or lessons did you see in this book?
- How does the father handle the fact that he and the child’s mother are no longer living together?

**Story Reading**

- What strategies did you notice the story reader using to get the children involved?
- How did they work with your child?
- By design, the words in this book are different sizes and at different angles, so be careful not to miss anything when reading it with your child.
- Encourage your child to recite the “One potato, two potato” rhyme with you near the end of the story.
- After you’ve read the story with your child, show her/him the “Mr. Potato Head” drawings of the book’s author and illustrator.
- Distribute “Tips for Reading *Two Old Potatoes and Me*” and ask for comments.

**Closure**

- Summarize some of the major points in the story.
- There are many opportunities to involve children in acting out a story like this.
- If appropriate, talk to your child about how some parents don’t live together and the child spends time with both parents.
- Have fun reading this story with your child.

**Dads and Kids Book Club**  
**Two Old Potatoes and Me**  
*Materials List*

**Art Project - Potato Prints**

- 6-8 medium potatoes cut in half
- Small knives for carving potatoes
- Pie tins with 3-4 different colors of tempera paint
- White or construction art paper for printing

**Cooking - Mashed Potatoes with Toppings**

- Recipe for Mashed Potatoes- (see book)
- 2-3 pounds of Yukon Gold Potatoes
- Pot, potato peelers and masher
- Toppings for the potatoes
- Butter
- Sour Cream
- Grated cheddar cheese
- Others....

**Craft Project - Painting Clay Pots**

- Small clay flower pot for each child
- Pottery paint in 2-3 different colors
- Paint brushes
- Potting soil and spoons
- Grass seed (or any other seeds)

**Science- Book Reading**

- 5-6 books about growing that might be of interest to the 4-6 year old age group

**Dramatic Play - Toy Farm Set-up**

- Barn with farm animals
- Tractor and implements

**Literacy/Writing Activity - Write mashed potato recipe on card to make at home.**

- Recipe for Mashed Potatoes- (see book)
- Paper or recipe cards
- Pencils/Pens
- Crayons