

**Dads & Kids Book Club**  
**The Very Best Daddy of All**  
*Session Outline*

**Story Related Outcomes for Dads:**

1. Dads will reflect on what it means to be an involved father.
2. Dads will understand different roles that fathers can play in supporting their child's development.

**Story Related Outcomes for Children:**

1. Children will appreciate the importance of Dads and how they care for their children.
2. Children will expand their vocabulary and understanding of different animals.

**Schedule of Activities**

Warm-in Time (10 minutes)

- Welcome, name-tags

Large Group/Story Reading (20 minutes)

- Introductions
- Song – Refer to the resource page for song suggestions
- Introduce and Read the Book – *Very Best Daddy of All*

Dads & Kids Activity Time (30 minutes)

- Craft: Fur collage
- Art: Feather painting
- Science: Animal books in library area
- Dramatic Play: Pet shop
- Literacy/Reading: Copy of *Mice Squeak, We Speak* with tape and head phones at listening center
- Literacy/Writing Activity-Greeting card in back of the book

Dads' Discussion Time (25 minutes)

1. Parent Session for Dads
  - See Parent Session Plan
  - Hand out books and tip sheet for *The Very Best Daddy of All*
2. Early Childhood Session for Children
  - Children continue to work on projects – snack, art, etc.
  - Group story and song

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 the story a few times to become familiar with the words and the rhythm of the story.
2. The story has very few words, so spend time talking about the pictures.
3. Father animals are the focus of this story. Help your child name the animals. Talk about what you see the animal doing in the picture.
4. Help your child discover how you do many of the things that the father animals do. How are children and baby animals similar?

**Helping your child to understand the story**

5. Help your child think of ways you help him/her that are similar to the ways animal dads help their young.
6. Talk about a pet you might have had. How did you care for the pet?
7. Ask your child what kind of animal she/he would like to have for a pet. How would they take care of the pet?

**Helping your child to learn new words**

8. Tell your child stories about your father or grandfather and how they helped you as a child.
9. Your child will probably know most/all of the words in the book. Talk about the animals and introduce new words.

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*Parent Session*

**Ice-Breaker/Introductions**

- Which father character in the book did you like best? Why?

**Story Sharing** – Discuss the book

- Hand out books and recap the story – Pictures and rhyming text show how fathers: animal, bird and human, take care of their children by bringing them food, playing with them, and keeping them safe.
- What themes or concepts are presented in this book?  
Animals, fathers, and what fathers do to care for their young
- What reflections come to mind for you about the role of fathers in the lives of their children?
- Fathers and mothers often do things differently.
- What do you do differently from your child’s mother?
- How does this affect your relationship with your child?

**Story Reading**

- What strategies did you notice the story reader using to get the children involved?
- How did they work with your child?
- What tips or strategies would you try first to make the story interesting and fun for your child?
- What are some ways you could enhance this story?  
Sounds, questions, describing the pictures, talk about what you do as a father
- Distribute “Tips for Reading *The Very Best Daddy of All.*”

**Closure**

- Summarize some of the major points about the role of fathers from the discussion.
- There is a greeting card taped inside the back cover of the book. Discuss options for how the card could be used (e.g. a special note sent to the child, mailing to a grandfather, etc.)
- Have fun reading this book to your child.

**Dads and Kids Book Club**  
**The Very Best Daddy of All**  
*Materials List*

**Craft-** Animal fur collage

- Precut rabbit, bear and dog shapes
- Glue in paint cups
- Glue brushes
- 1"x1" pieces of fur

**Art -** Feather painting

- Tempera paint in paint cups
- Long feathers
- Easel paper

**Science**

- Books about animals

**Literacy/Reading**

- Headset book and tape *Mice Squeak, We Speak* by Tomie dePaola

**Dramatic Play -** Pet Shop

- Stuffed animals; dogs, cats, birds, etc
- Kennels
- Pet food dishes
- Empty pet food boxes and bags
- Brushes for the animals
- Plastic dog bones

**Literacy/Writing Activity** – Greeting Card (inside back cover of book)

- Pens, pencils, crayons