



BOOK TITLE: Over in the Meadow
AUTHOR: Ezra Jack Keats



SUMMARY OF BOOK: This is a counting rhyme, with mothers instructing their babies to do what they do best: fish swim, birds sing, muskrats dive, and bees buzz.

***BEFORE READING** (Ask questions and use what the child already knows to add to the discussion, assisting the child in understanding and enjoying the book):

Try questions such as these:

1. Take a picture walk through the book just looking at the pictures. Before opening the book show the child the cover and read the title. Ask her what she thinks the book will be about, based only on what she sees.
2. Ask questions about each picture she sees: "What do birds sound like?" "What color are the leaves?" "What sounds do they make?" "How many birds are in the tree?"

DURING READING (ask these questions):

1. "What are the animals doing? Are they having fun?" "Do you like doing that?"
2. Encourage the child to count how many babies each mother has.
3. Have your child join in the repetition: "What does the bird say?" "Can you croak like a frog?"
4. When the child volunteers something about the book, repeat and expand upon it: "Yes, that is the birdie. What color is the bird?"
5. Use motions to accompany the action words when you read them.

AFTER READING (activity to extend book experience):

1. Ask the child which animal/insect is her favorite? Why? Encourage her to make believe she's that animal; what would she do?
2. Pretend you are a mommy and a baby from the book: what would you help her learn to do in the meadow?
3. Using stuffed animals or toys, have them play like the animals in the meadow.

Compliments of:



* This activity created by students at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

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