

HUSH LITTLE BABY

Hush Little Baby

by Aliko Brandenburg (Simon & Schuster)

Themes: Families/Bedtime Stories/Music

Grade Level: PreK-1

Running Time: 5 minutes, iconographic

Summary

HUSH LITTLE BABY is a folk lullaby which came to America from England. The lullaby is a story of a little boy who is rocked to sleep by his mother with the promise of gifts from his father. As the story progresses, the sleepy boy is soothed to sleep with the promise that his papa will buy him wonderful things, from a mockingbird, to a dog named Rover, to a horse and cart.

The end of the story finds the mother tucking in her little boy, who is now fast asleep.

Objectives

- Children will recall their own babyhood
- Children will learn about the importance of family relationships
- Children will learn that love is a gift greater than material things

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book Hush Little Baby with children.

Talk with children about their favorite lullabies and bedtime stories. Encourage children to share the lullabies/stories with their classmates. Ask: How do you feel at night when your parents sing lullabies or

read bedtime stories to help you fall asleep?

Have children describe their family members and the routines they follow at home. Ask: Who helps you get ready for school in the morning? What kinds of things do you do to help your family members at dinner time? What does your family do after dinner? Who helps you get ready for bed at night? What do you do before going to bed?

After Viewing Activities

Talk with children about the things they owned when they were babies. Ask: Did you have a favorite toy, pillow, or blanket? What did it look like? What happened to it? How did you feel about this special toy (pillow, blanket)? Have children draw pictures of these special objects they enjoyed during their babyhood. Then have children dictate their feelings about these objects to you and print them below the drawings. Display the drawings on a classroom wall or bulletin board.

Try this activity to help children gain skill in rhyming. Change the lyrics of the song, "Hush Little Baby," by changing the objects the father gives to his son. For example, begin by singing "Hush little baby, don't make a sound, Papa's gonna buy you a ball, big and round. If that big round ball rolls away, papa's gonna buy you a" Have children complete the rhyme by asking them to supply a word that rhymes with away. Continue the activity in this manner.

Supply paper plates that children can use to create the faces of their family members. Also provide art

supplies, including yarn, crayons, felt scraps, ribbon, etc. that children can use to create the faces on the paper plates. Later, have children describe their paper plate family members, and the things they like most about each one, to their classmates. Attach the plates, and label words identifying each paper plate face, to a classroom bulletin board.

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