

Creative Adventures with Literature

#10: *Hush, Little Baby*, illustrated by Marla Frazee

Introduction

The *Arkansas Child Development and Early Learning Standards: Birth through 60 months* focuses on three components of the **Domain: Creativity and Aesthetics**. The components are: **Music and Movement, Visual Arts, and Drama**. In the book, *Hush Little Baby*, there is a focus on **Music and Movement**. Children are also involved in activities that support **Drama** and the **Domains: Social and Emotional Development and Social Studies**.

Hush, Little Baby features one of America's greatest children's folk songs and is illustrated with fascinating drawings by Marla Frazee. Children will enjoy listening to and singing the lullaby in which parents promise their crying baby an assortment of presents.

Story Preparation

- Spend time becoming familiar with the book, *Hush Little Baby*. Pay special attention to all of the details in the illustrations.
- Locate a CD with the song, "Hush Little Baby."
- Become familiar with the song and be prepared to sing it with the children.

Teacher Note: The song, "Hush Little Baby," may be found in a collection of children's favorites, children's classics, lullabies, or Mother Goose lullabies.

Story Presentation

Learning Goals:

SE2.2 Interprets and responds to the feelings of others (*emotion understanding*)

CD2.4 Holds and manipulates information in memory (*short-term and working memory*)

LD1.1 Understands and responds to language (in child's home language) (*vocabulary and language comprehension*)

EL1.1 Shows interest in literacy experiences (*engagement in literacy experiences, variety of interests*)

EL3.1 Responds to the features of books and print (*book knowledge*)

SS2.1 Shows awareness of sequence and change over time (*awareness of past and future*)

CA1.1 Explores through listening, singing, creating, and moving to music (*exploration of music and movement*)

Book: *Hush, Little Baby* illustrated by Marla Frazee

First Reading of

- Sing or play the song, "Hush Little Baby," and invite children to join you in the story reading area.
- Invite children to look at the cover and describe what they think is happening in the picture.
- Point to the cradle and ask children if they know what this is called.
- Explain that a cradle is a small bed for a baby and that it has rockers (point to the rockers).
- Invite children to rock side to side like a cradle.
- Give title and name of illustrator. Explain that the words in the book are the words to an old, old song.
- Read or sing the words to the song as you show the pictures.
- Show the last page of the book with the words and music and invite children to sing the song with you.
- Follow up by showing and reading the pages about the looking glass. Ask children if they know what a looking glass is (mirror).
- Show a page where the fireplace with the hanging iron pot is easy to see. Invite children to discuss why they think the pot is hanging over the fire. (Iron pot was for cooking food a long, long time ago when people didn't have stoves or microwaves like we do now).

Second Reading of *Hush Little Baby*

- Show the cover and invite children to recall the title.
- State that the pictures are drawn by Marla Frazee, that she is the illustrator.
- Show the page before the title page.
- Invite children to look at the picture and describe what they see. Explain that the people in the story lived a long, long time ago and that they lived in the mountains. Call attention to the mountains in the picture.
- Show the title page and ask children to look at the parents. How do they think they are feeling about their baby? Then ask them to look at the little girl and describe how they think she is feeling.
- Show the acknowledgement pages and call attention to the picture of the little girl and the baby in the cradle. Ask children to describe what they think is happening in the picture.
- Show the first page of the story and invite children to tell you why they think the baby is crying.
- Read or sing the words as you show the pictures so that all children can see them.
- Follow up by showing the pictures on each double spread and invite children to describe what is happening.
- Invite children to share their experiences with crying babies.

Third Reading of *Hush Little Baby*

- Show the cover and ask children to recall the title of the book and the song.
- State that the song is a lullaby. Ask if they know what a lullaby is. (A lullaby is a soothing and quiet song to lull or help the baby get to sleep). Ask if any of them have heard a lullaby before.
- Sing or play the song as you turn the pages of the book. Invite children to join in the singing.
- Follow up by showing the page with the words, "You'll be the sweetest baby in town." Invite children to describe how they think the parents are feeling (tired, exhausted). How is the little girl feeling? The baby?

Creative Drama and Dramatic Play Extensions

Learning Goal:

CA3.1 Explores feelings, relationships, and concepts through imitation, pretend play, and sociodramatic play (exploration of drama)

Activity: Baby Care Prop Box

Contents: small, soft baby doll, doll blanket, bib, baby bowl and spoon, empty baby food containers, baby doll bottle, wash cloth, infant toys, empty shoe box lined with doll blanket for doll bed

Directions:

- Place the prop box in the Dramatic Play Center.
- Observe children as they play with the props. Do they feed the baby? Do they rock it? Do they place it in the doll bed? Do they sing a lullaby to the baby? Do they assign or assume different roles in their play?

Dramatic Play Extensions:

- Place a small black iron pot or a black plastic caldron often found in stores at Halloween in the Dramatic Play Center.
- Place a hand-held mirror (shatter-proof) in the Dramatic Play Center.

Creative Music Experiences

Learning Goal:

CA1.1 Explores through listening, singing, creating, and moving to music (*exploration of music and movement, music and movement concepts, musical expression and appreciation*)

Activity: Lullaby and Not a Lullaby


Materials: CD with the song, “Hush Little Baby”, and one with the song, “She’ll Be Coming ‘Round the Mountain,” CD player

Directions:

- Locate a CD with the two songs, “Hush Little Baby” and “She’ll Be Coming ‘Round the Mountain.”
- Invite children to join you in the Music Center.
- Begin to play the song, “Hush Little Baby,” and invite children to join in singing along.
- Explain to children that they just heard a lullaby and that a lullaby is a quiet and soothing song to help babies go to sleep. They will now hear another song and they are to decide if it is a lullaby or not.
- Recall with children that the people in the book, *Hush Little Baby*, lived in the mountains and the next song will be about mountains.
- Play the song, “She’ll Be Coming ‘Round the Mountain.” Ask children if they think this is a lullaby that would help a baby get to sleep. Ask them to explain their answers.
- Play the song again and invite children to join in and add motions to go along with the words of the song.
- Invite children to say which is their favorite of the two songs.

Creative Music Extension:

- Make a graph with three columns. In the first column number from the bottom up. Label the other columns, “Hush Little Baby” and “She’ll Be Coming ‘Round the Mountain.” Add a picture of a baby to the first title and a picture of a horse to the second title.
- Read the titles with the children and explain that they are to choose which of the songs they like the best.
- Allow children to vote by writing their names in the column they choose or by placing a name card in the column of their choice.
- Invite children to explain their choice of songs.
- Involve children in counting the number of children in each column.
- Write a summary story about children’s choices.
- Read the summary story with the children.

7	Grace	
6	Anna Kate	
5	Lucy	Beckett
4	Peyton	Taylor
3	Amy	Claire
2	Jonathan	Benjamin
1	Elise	Andrew
	Hush Little Baby 	She’ll Be Coming ‘Round the Mountain 

Our Favorite Song

More people in our class liked the song, Hush Little Baby the best. Seven people liked Hush Little Baby the best and five people liked the song, She’ll Be Coming ‘Round the Mountain best.

Additional Learning Goals:

SE3.1 Shows awareness of self as unique individual (*preferences*)

EL3.1 Responds to features of books and print (*print knowledge*)

MT1.1 Demonstrates number sense and an understanding of quantity (*number and count sequence, comparison of quantity, connection of number, numeral and quantity*)

Teacher Note: *Favorite verses for She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain*

She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain

She'll be coming 'round the mountain when she comes
She'll be coming 'round the mountain when she comes
She'll be coming 'round the mountain, she'll be coming 'round the mountain,
She'll be coming 'round the mountain when she comes

She'll be driving six white horses when she comes (Hee Haw)
She'll be driving six white horses when she comes (Hee Haw)
She'll be driving six white horses, she'll be driving six white horses,
She'll be driving six white horses when she comes (Hee Haw)

Oh, we'll all go out to meet her when she comes (Hi, Babe)
Oh, we'll all go out to meet her when she comes (Hi, Babe)
Oh, we'll all go out to meet her, we'll all go out to meet her,
We'll all go out to meet her when she comes (Hi, Babe)

She'll be wearing red pajamas when she comes
She'll be wearing red pajamas when she comes
She'll be wearing red pajamas, she'll be wearing red pajamas,
She'll be wearing red pajamas when she comes

She will have to sleep with Grandma when she comes (Snore)
She will have to sleep with Grandma when she comes (Snore)
She will have to sleep with Grandma, she will have to sleep with Grandma,
She will have to sleep with Grandma when she comes. (Snore)

We will all have chicken and dumplings when she comes. (Yum yum)
We will all have chicken and dumplings when she comes. (Yum yum)
We will all have chicken and dumplings; we'll all have chicken and dumplings.
We will all have chicken and dumplings when she comes. (Yum yum)

Additional Books

Hush! A Thai Lullaby by Minfong Ho

Hush, Little Baby, illustrated by Shari Halpren

Hush Little Baby, illustrated by Silvia Long

Time for Bed by Mem Fox, illustrated by Jane Dyer

Additional “Hush, Little Baby” Ideas

- Play lullabies, including “Hush, Little Baby,” at rest time.
- Compare different versions of *Hush Little Baby* illustrated books with the children.
- Purchase a doll cradle to place in the Dramatic Play Center.
- Invite families to share lullabies that they sing with their children, especially if there are families from different cultures in your program
- Say or sing the Mother Goose rhyme, “Hush a Bye Baby,” with the children as you show the picture in a Mother Goose book.
- Read the book, *Time for Bed*, by Mem Fox, illustrated by Jane Dyer, just before children get on their cots or mats for rest time.