

FAMILY READING AND ACTIVITY GUIDE



READ TOGETHER

Reading aloud with your child builds key language and literacy skills while you connect with a book. This shared experience ignites children's imaginations, helps them build a greater understanding of the world, and cultivates a lifelong love of reading.

Here are some tips for making the most of story time:

- Hold the book so that your child can easily see the cover and the illustrations.
- Make a few comments about the illustration on the cover and note the author and illustrator.
- Show excitement and read the story expressively.
- Listen for your child's comments or questions and respond briefly to confirm or clarify.
- Provide information to extend your child's understanding of the story.
- Have fun!



BUILD VOCABULARY

Providing a simple explanation for words that children may not be familiar with can help build their language skills. You can describe the meaning of a word, point to an illustration, or use your tone of voice to convey the word's meaning.

Here are some words to talk about while you read *With Lots of Love*:

- **Missed**: feeling sad or lonely without someone or something
- **Gentle**: very soft and calm
- **Celebration**: an event for a special person or day
- **Decorate**: to make more beautiful or special
- **Sprinkled**: to drop in small pieces
- **Wish**: a hope for something to happen
- **Recognized**: to know or remember someone or something you have seen before
- **Plucked**: to grab with your fingers and pull off



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CREATE A MEMORY BOX

Rocio receives a special box from Abuela filled with all the things Rocio loves and misses from her faraway home. Help your child to create a memory box for someone they miss. Fill the box with notes, drawings, or small objects that remind your child of the special person they miss and times they shared together. Invite your child to decorate the box with stickers or pictures. Look at the items in the box to think of happy memories or send the box to the special person they miss, like Abuela does for Rocio.

MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER

On her birthday, Rocio wakes up when Mamá, Papá, her sister, and brother sing “Las Mañanitas” to celebrate her special day. What songs are important to your family? Sing or listen to these songs together. Add instruments or special costumes. Invite your child to make homemade maracas, like the ones Rocio’s brother plays, by putting beans or beads in an empty container. Shake and dance to the music!



COOK A SPECIAL FOOD

Abuela sends homemade tortillas in her package to Rocio. Rocio smells the sweet, earthy smell and thinks of Abuela’s gentle hands. Explore the ways food can connect your child to their culture and family by cooking a special dish together. Choose a recipe from a grandparent, like Abuela’s tortillas, or make a family favorite dish. With the help of your child, prepare the dish together. While it’s cooking, talk about the smells, tastes, and memories associated with the food.

VISIT A LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD STORE

In the story, Rocio misses visiting Abuelo’s store. She remembers the smells of fruits and vegetables in the store and the sound of Abuela’s voice. Invite your child on a trip to your local grocery store. Tap into their senses as you explore the store together. Notice the smells and sounds in different aisles. Ask your child about the different shapes and colors they see around them. Talk about your child’s favorite fruits and vegetables and what they taste like.

MAKE A WISH

Rocio looks at the night sky filled with stars. She searches for the brightest star and makes a wish. Ask your child, “When it’s nighttime, what do you see in the sky?” Look out the window at the night sky or find a picture of stars in the storybook. After they point out what they see, have them pick the brightest star and make a wish. Let your child draw the night sky, stars, and moon using light-colored crayons. Help them write their wish with words or a drawing.

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KEEP READING

Keep exploring the themes of *With Lots of Love*, by reading more books! Some ideas are:

Dive into more books about missing someone by reading:

- *Juna's Jar* by Jane Bahk and illustrated by Felicia Hoshino
- *I'll Go and Come Back* by Rajani LaRocca and illustrated by Sara Palacios
- *Mama and Mommy and Me in the Middle* by Nina LaCour and illustrated by Kaylani Juanita
- *Nonni's Moon* by Julia Inzerro and illustrated by Lucy Smith

Deepen conversation about moving. Try:

- *A New Kind of Wild* by Zara Gonzalez Hoang
- *Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away* by Meg Medina and illustrated by Sonia Sánchez
- *Everything Naomi Loved* by Katie Yamasaki and Ian Lendler
- *The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh* by Supriya Kelkar and illustrated by Alea Marley
- *Coquí in the City* by Nomar Perez

Dig into themes of intergenerational relationships by reading:

- *Grandpa Grumps* by Katrina Moore and illustrated by Xindi Yan
- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt De La Peña and illustrated by Christian Robinson
- *When Lola Visits* by Michelle Sterling and illustrated by Aaron Asis
- *Saturdays Are for Stella* by Candy Wellins and illustrated by Charlie Eve Ryan

