Tyrannosaurus Rex VS. Edna: The Very First Chicken by Douglas Rees is a funny story of the very first chicken, Edna, and her first encounter with Tyrannosaurus Rex. Tyrannosaurus Rex finally meets his match in the unlikely heroine, Edna. Tyrannosaurus Rex roars to the forest that he is hungry. He sends all the other dinosaurs in a panic and they flee the forest. But Edna defiantly stands firm. This is an appealing book with its colorful and fun illustrations and lots of recognizable dinosaurs.

You can help children develop essential early literacy skills by reading, talking, writing, singing and playing with them every day. Use the following suggestions as you share Tyrannosaurus Rex VS. Edna: The Very First Chicken

Ask Open-Ended Questions Before and After Story

Before the Story

- **Introduce the story:** This is a story of Edna, the very first chicken who was not afraid of the hungry Tyrannosaurus Rex.
- If you were a dinosaur, what would you eat?
- If you were a Tyrannosaurus Rex, what would you eat for breakfast?
- Have you ever seen a dinosaur? If you have, where?
- What is your favorite dinosaur?

After the Story

- Who was every dinosaur in the forest afraid of? Why?
- Who was not afraid of Tyrannosaurus Rex? Tell me about her.
- How are Tyrannosaurus Rex and Edna the same? How are they different?
- Do you know what it is to be brave? Are you brave?
- What did you do that was brave?

Introduce New Vocabulary and Concepts

Explaining unfamiliar words and concepts will help expand children’s vocabulary, develop their background knowledge and enhance future read alouds.

- **awesome:** amazing
- **beware:** be careful
- **brave:** like a hero
- **extinct:** no longer here
- **fierce:** wild and strong
- **gnash:** hold teeth together tight
- **gobble:** eat fast
- **peck:** pick up with a beak
- **ruffle:** make feathers stand
- **scram:** leave quickly

This book provides a way to talk to children about evolution, dinosaurs, birds, bullying and bravery.
Engage Preschoolers in Early Literacy Book Extension Activities
Using Tyrannosaurus Rex VS. Edna: The Very First Chicken

- Collect different dinosaurs - counters, stuffed animals or pictures - and talk about their similarities and differences.
- Write and or illustrate about what might happen “If You Take a Dinosaur to School.” You can write the children’s dictation on their illustration and put the pages together to create a book.
- Play alphabet-bingo and use dinosaur counters to cover the letters.
- Role-play how some dinosaurs travelled in herds. Put children into two separate groups. Name their group different dinosaurs. Ask the groups to crawl to different destinations in search of food. You can display leaves with different letters and they can search for specific letters. Other variations: shapes, colors, numbers. They must stay together with their assigned herds.
- Go for a walk and a bird-watch. Observe what the birds are doing: flying, sitting, walking or swimming and tally using this template.

Sing Songs and Chant Rhymes About Dinosaurs

I’m a Mean Old Dinosaur
(Tune: “I’m a Little Teapot”)
I’m a mean old dinosaur, (make a mean face)
Big and tall. (reach high and wide)
Here is my tail and here are my claws. (wag an imaginary tail and curl fingers)
When I get all hungry I just growl. (rub tummy and growl the word growl)
Look out kids ... (hands over eyes looking)
I’m on the prowl! (lunge left and right)

Dino Ditty
(Tune: “Do Wah Diddy Diddy”)
Here he comes just a stomping with his feet, (stomp your feet)
Searching all around for something good to eat, (hand over brow)
He's huge. [He's huge.] (stretch out arms)
He's strong. [He's strong.] (bend elbows and make fist)
Won't be hungry very long! (shake finger "no")
"Dino ditty, ditty dum ditty do." (clap)
"Dino ditty, ditty dum ditty do." (clap)

I’d Like to be a Dinosaur
(Tune: “Mary had a Little Lamb”)
I’d like to be a dinosaur, dinosaur, dinosaur.
And if I was a dinosaur, I would be a _________.
(Each child has a turn naming which dinosaur he would like to be.)

Stomp, Stomp, Stomp Around
(Tune: “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”)
Stomp, stomp, stomp around,
On your great big feet.
Swish your tail,
Then turn around,
Now go take your seat.