My Little Fox by Rick Chrustowski is about a fox kit’s first year. Mama Fox tells her new baby that it’s time to go outside for the first time. Hesitant, his mother promises Little Fox that she will stay by his side. She encourages Little Fox as he plays, jumps, hops and explores through his first year and experiences the different seasons.

Readers will enjoy the bright colors and detailed illustrations. There’s the added fun of looking for key words that are drawn, like tree roots that spell out “tree” and autumn leaves that spell “drop”. It is a sweet story of parent-child love, seasons and forest habitat.

You can help children develop essential literacy skills by reading, talking, singing and playing with them everyday. Use the following suggestions as you share My Little Fox.

Ask Open-Ended Questions Before and After Story

Before the Story
- Introduce the story: A little fox discovers the wonders of the world around him while celebrating the seasons and parent-child love.
- What animals do you see on the cover?
- Who do you think the bigger fox is?
- Where do you think they live?
- Have you ever been to a forest? What was it like?
- What other animals do you think you might meet in the forest?

After the Story
- Was Little Fox afraid to go outside by himself?
- What is Little Fox’s house called? What does it look like?
- What does your house look like?
- Who made sure Little Fox was always safe while exploring outside? Who keeps you safe?
- What were some of the things he did in the forest?
- What seasons did Little Fox experience?
- Tell me something about the different seasons.

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.

- alone: with no one else
- autumn: fall season
- beneath: right under
- den: an animal’s house
- drop: make fall
- explore: check out
- forest: a place with lots of trees
- kit: baby fox
- tracks: footprints on the ground
- year: 12 months

This book provides a way to talk to children about time, seasons, forest habitat and parent-child love.
Engage Preschoolers in Early Literacy Book Extension Activities

Using My Little Fox

- Take a walk outside. Collect different leaves. Sort the leaves by color. You can use these labels to help with sorting. Talk about which colors you have the most of and which you have the least. Tally color preferences. You can also sort them by size.
- Invite the children to look through magazines and cut pictures of animals and things you find in the forest. Fold (5) or more sheets of computer paper in half and staple on the long end to make a book. Pick a title and put it on the front cover. Glue the pictures and write the names of the animals and plants. You can keep the book in your classroom library or Science Center.
- Go on an autumn scavenger hunt. You can use this template. Explore and name the items found.
- Write the letters of the alphabet on a letter-sized paper – one per page. Collect collage materials depicting different seasons, for example leaves for fall. Name the letters and form the letters using collage materials.
- Cut out leaves, flowers, foxes, owls or suns. Write the letters of the alphabet on the cut-outs and on clothes pins. Invite the children to match the letters on the clothes pins with the cut-outs.

Sing Songs and Chant Rhymes About Seasons and Foxes

Foxy, Foxy, Turn Around
(Tune: “Teddy bear, Teddy Bear”)
Foxy, foxy, turn around.
Foxy, foxy, touch the ground.
Foxy, foxy, dance on your toes.
Foxy, foxy, touch your nose.
Foxy, foxy, jump up now.
Foxy, foxy, take a bow.
Foxy, foxy, turn around.
Foxy, foxy, sit right down.

Little Foxes
Little foxes, little foxes, all lined up in rows, (start with 5 fingers)
Little foxes, little foxes, bushy tail and black nose. (with the other hand, swish your “tail” and point to your nose)
Little foxes, little foxes, in orange, white and gray.
Oh, I love those little foxes, they just want to play.

Just then, one little fox darted off into the trees. (Hide 1 finger)
Swish, swish, swish,
Now how many foxes do you see?
1,2,3,4...(count the number of fingers left)
Repeat chorus, and continue counting down to 0

Leaves on the Trees
(Tune: "Wheels on the Bus")
The leaves on the trees turn orange and brown.
Orange and brown, orange and brown.
The leaves on the trees turn orange and brown, In the town.
The leaves on the ground go swish, swish, swish.
Swish, swish, swish. Swish, swish, swish.
The leaves on the ground go swish, swish, swish, Down on the ground.
The leaves on the trees come tumbling down.
Tumbling down, tumbling down.
The leaves on the trees come tumbling down, Down to the ground.

If You’re a Fox and You Know It
(Tune: “If You’re Happy and You Know It”)
If you’re a fox and you know it, swish your tail.
If you’re a fox and you know it, swish your tail.
If you’re a fox and you know it, Then you’ll really want to show it.
If you’re a fox and you know it, swish your tail. Other verses:
Wiggle your nose
Show you claws