

Developing Literacy

Chapter 10

Ideas from: Using Children's Literature in Preschool by Morrow
(ISBN 0-87207-548-6)

Chapter 3 - Supporting Reading Comprehension: Responding to Books

- Introduce a book using the author, title, illustrators or photographers.
- Teach the difference between pictures and print, "Which do we read, the pictures or the print?".
- Books have a front, back, top and bottom.
- Pages turn from left to right.
- Begin reading in the upper left area of the page.
- Provide background information before reading a book.
- Have children predict what might happen next.
- Prepare the child for listening to the story (Set a purpose for listening to the story), read the story with few interruptions, discuss the story after the story is read.
- Shared reading - let the children fill in the blanks to rhyming words, chants, etc.
- Read the same book several times during the year, month, or week.
- Small group or one-on-one readings: greater attention span, close interaction, can discover what children know and what they want to learn.
- Whole group reading exposes children to literature, but doesn't promote interaction between adults and children like one-on-one reading does.
- Ask mostly open-ended questions with more than one right answer, but include a few factual questions.
- Ask the children to retell the story: Once there was a ... What happened next... How was the problem solved...
- When retelling a story use this outline:
 1. Setting - Where did the story happen? Who were the characters?
 2. Theme - What was the main character's goal or problem to be solved.
 3. Plot Episodes - Name the episodes in the story.
 4. Resolution - How was the problem solved? How did the story end?
 5. Sequence - Tell the story in sequence.
- Echo/ Chant - Children repeat the line after the teacher reads it.
- Coral chanting - Children repeat the entire reading like a poem.
- Books on tape are an excellent model of fluent reading.

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Chapter 4- Using Children's Literature Throughout the Preschool Curriculum

- Literature activities:
 1. Have a neat and organized library corner.
 2. Have children read in pairs.
 3. Play books on tapes.
 4. Act out stories.
 5. Make class books.
 6. Read a story; do a related art activity.
 7. Make recipes related to the story.
 8. Circulate 20 new books per month.
 9. Have opened-faced bookshelves.
 10. Each year have children dress up as book characters.
 11. Give book marks to children.
 12. Each year give a book as a gift to children.
 13. Have a morning message or question for each child to answer when he/she walks in the room.
- Literacy
 1. In dramatic play - phone books, paper, pencil, etc.
 2. Use children's books to discuss art techniques.
 3. Music - Print words on word strips for children to follow as you sing.
 4. Science and social studies - Discuss themes through the use of books and prepare food using recipes.
 5. Math - Read math-related books.