



Every Child Ready to Read Training

Library of Michigan

2nd Edition

March, 2016



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Early Literacy Skills

Six Skills Every Child Needs In Place Before Kindergarten:

Print Motivation: A child's interest in and enjoyment of books.

Print Awareness: Noticing print everywhere, knowing how to follow the words on a page, knowing how to handle a book.

Phonological Awareness: Phonological awareness is the ability to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words.

Vocabulary: Vocabulary is knowing the name of things.

Narrative Skills: The ability to describe things and events and tell stories.

Letter Knowledge: Letter knowledge is knowing that letters are different from each other, knowing their names and sounds, and recognizing letters everywhere.

Five Practices For Parents To Know:

Talking - Talking with children helps them learn oral language, one of the most critical early literacy skills.

Singing - Includes rhyming, and increase children's awareness of and sensitivity to the sounds in words.

Reading - Reading together, or shared reading, remains the single most effective way to help children become proficient readers.

Writing - Writing and reading go together. Writing helps children learn that letters and words stand for sounds and that print has meaning.

Playing - Children learn how to express themselves, the meaning of words, and other early literacy skills by playing.

Important Terms

Constrained & Unconstrained Skills-

Constrained Skills: Print awareness, letter knowledge, & phonological awareness. Must learn in order to read, developed over a limited time span, and have a fixed endpoint. Once skills acquired no further improvement. They are the strongest predictors of early reading success. Yet, if these are the only skills they acquire, they may still struggle to learn to read.

Unconstrained Skills: Develop over a lifetime. NO end-point to improving vocabulary or comprehension. Children start out slowly and accelerate over time. These skills take longer to learn. These are foundational skills that children need to become proficient readers and learners.

*****Statistics Depicting Our Nations' Literacy Rates*****

- According to the 1991 Carnegie Foundation Report, *Ready to Learn, A Mandate for the Nation*, 35% of children in the United States enter public schools without the skills necessary for learning to read.
- One out of five school children is reading-impaired by the time he reaches 4th grade.
- This problem, which is usually placed under the rubric of school readiness, is strongly linked to family income and parental education levels.
- The relationship between the skills with which children enter school and their later academic performance is strikingly stable. For instance, research has shown that there is nearly a 90% probability that a child will remain a poor reader at the end of the fourth grade if the child is a poor reader at the end of the first grade.

- Knowledge of alphabet letters at entry into kindergarten is a strong predictor of reading ability in 10th grade.
- By one estimate the typical middle-class child enters first grade with 1,000 to 1,700 hours of one-on-one picture book reading, whereas a child from a low-income family averages just 25 hours.

*****Why This is Important for Parents to Know*****

- Learning to read and write is important for success in school
- Children get ready to read LONG before they start school.
- A parent is a child's first teacher - not like in school - not to TEACH child how to read - but to share books, songs, and language experiences
- Children who are read to have a larger vocabulary and better language skills when they start school.
- A child's interest in reading and having books read to them is an important predictor of later reading achievement.

Going on a "Picture Walk" with a Picture Book



This is a great way to have a conversation with your child about a book. It is called a "picture walk" because you and your child are going to walk through the pictures in the book without reading the words.

1. Hold the book so your child can see the cover. Read the title and author of the book aloud.
2. Describe the illustration on the cover and ask what your child thinks the story is about.
3. Tell your child that this book has words and pictures, and that right now you're going to look at just the pictures and try to guess what's happening in the story.
4. Now it's your child's turn! Open to the first page of the story and ask her to describe what she sees happening on this page, just as you did when you

described the cover illustration. Ask your child about the characters and ask him/her to predict what might happen to them. Encourage her to speak in sentences and to give as many details as possible, referring to the characters, the setting (place), and the story events.

5. Continue in this manner, until there is only one page left in the book.
6. Have you child predict how the book will end.

Advantages of a Picture Walk

- Teaches a child to take turns in order to have a conversation.
- Helps children become familiar with how books work and are organized.
- Give parents a chance to introduce new words and what they ea.
- Provides opportunities to rephrase what the child says so he or she can learn more language.
- Extends conversations to help children learn more about something.
- Helps a child make connections to past and future events so he or she understands that language sometimes represents events that are not happening right n

Sample Topics to be Included In a Workshop For Early Childhood Educators

- Why Share Literature with Young Children
- Importance of Sharing Books and Language Activities from Birth
- Importance of Sharing Books on a Daily Basis
- Importance of Learning in the Early Years/Brain Research
- Effects of Television/Videos
- Caregivers as Models and the Importance of Their Reading Habits
- Role Early Childhood Educators Can Play in Young Children's Literacy Skills
- Sharing Books With Young Children - How To's
- How to Pick Good Books to Read and That You Enjoy
- Picking Books Considering Young Children's Developmental Stages
- Suggested Guides or Resource Books & Asking Librarians for Suggestions
- What to Look For When Selecting Books
- The Importance of Picture Book Art
- Types of Books to Avoid
- Reading with Enthusiasm/Using Different Voices
- How to Hold Books
- How to Talk About Books after Sharing Them
- Special Types of Books/Materials to Share in Addition to Picture Books
- Board and Cloth Books for Very Young Children
- Importance of Sharing Folk/Fairy Tales
- How to Use Wordless Books
- Importance of Sharing Informational Books

- Use of Concept Books
- Musical Cassettes/Videos Popular with Children
- Methods of Storytelling:
 - Participation Stories
 - Creative Dramatics
 - Flannel Board/Magnetic Board/Velcro Board
 - Tell & Draw Stories
 - Clothesline Stories
 - String Stories
 - Puppetry
 - Use of Props
- Literature Extensions
- Art Extensions
- Music Extensions
- Science Extensions
- Math Extensions
- Mother Goose Rhymes/Poetry/Rap/Fingerplays
- How to Set Up a Literacy-Rich Classroom Book Area
- Creative Dramatics Area
- Puppet Area
- Writing Center
- Music Center
- Do's To Promote Literacy Experiences (separate handout)

Adapted from & (Originally Published in): Nespeca, Sue McCleaf. *Library Programming for Families with Young Children*. Neal-Schuman, 1994.