Early Childhood Education
Video 7: Reading Aloud

Category: Early Childhood Literacy
Grade Band: Ages 3 to 5
Topic: Daily Activities
Concept 1: Learning how to improve your child's vocabulary

Context: Reading time at home should be a fun experience for everyone involved. The more families read together, the better off they will be in terms of academics, bonding, and family dynamics. Child needs to be actively involved during reading time, even though they may not know how to read the text.

Rationale: Reading time at home is a chance for a parent to not only share a story with his child, but also gives multiple opportunities to develop literacy, mathematical, and social skills.

Opportunities for literacy development during reading time:

I. Before Reading
   A. Benefits of sitting together
   B. Prepared to read and listen
        a. If possible read the book before you read it aloud to your child.
        b. Have all preparations needed made in advance so there won't be any interruptions in the story
        c. Make sure everyone is comfortable and that they can see you, the pictures, and the text.
        d. If you have some interesting and fun connection to the story, let your child know.
   C. Listening/audience skills
        a. Make sure they are sitting still, quiet, and listening
             Make sure your child is being attentive

II. During Reading
   A. Highlighting the words
        a. Child is filling in the gaps
        b. Discuss colorful phrases and words
        c. Have them imagine they are the main character in the book
        d. Find ways to have your child interact with the book
        e. Name the parts of the book together; cover, title, author, illustrator, pages, top, bottom, letters, words, sentence, paragraphs, and chapters.
        f. Demonstrate book handling—left to right, top to bottom, one-page-at-a-time, etc.
   B. Highlighting the performance
        a. Read with enthusiasm
        b. Tell the story with expression in your voice
        c. Experiment with intonation

   d. Use body movements as you tell the story
   e. Use an engaging voice. Make it as fun and interesting as possible
   f. Make eye contact with your child every now and then
   g. Slow down as you read and enunciate each word.
   h. Think about facial expressions and body/hand movements
   i. Use different voices for characters. Change the intonation in order to make the story more exciting.
   j. Sing the words and lyrics

  C. Highlighting the illustrations
   a. Direct child's attention to specific aspects of the text and illustrations
   b. Talk about the pictures

  D. Reading together opportunities
   a. Echo reading
   b. Choral reading
   c. Child volunteers to read
   d. Point to words as you read them

III. After Reading
  A. Talk, Oral language, and communication
  B. Comprehension
   a. Have frequent ?
   b. Use a balance of subject matter in choosing books?
   c. Stick to the same author for a while if your child likes him/her
   d. Reread books as much as your child would like
   e. Teach morals, ethics, and values brought out by the books.
  C. Enjoyable family time
  D. Audience manners
   a. If your child likes the book, have her applaud at the end

Mathematics Connections:
Emphasize the patterns in books. Let your child fill in the last word of a sentence as you read. This works well when the word is based on a pattern repeated throughout the book or predictable due to rhyming.

Talk and ask questions about the pictures and story.
  Count small sets of objects
  Compare amounts (more than, less than, equal to)
  Compare measurements (taller, shorter, longer, heavier, etc.)
  Identify locations (under, inside, outside, on top of, etc.)
  Identify times (morning, lunch time, bed time, etc.)

There are specific children's books that emphasize different mathematical ideas such as those listed below. Reading and talking about these books help children understand the mathematical ideas.
  Number Sense Time (bedtime, lunchtime) Counting
  Measurement (non-standard) Patterns Shapes

Spatial Relationships	Estimating
Addition	Problem Solving