

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 literacy understanding through the use of verbal and nonverbal techniques

Context: Reading at home should be a fun experience for everyone involved. The more a parent can make reading enjoyable, the more a child is going to see it as valuable and want to continue. By adding a few verbal and nonverbal techniques to the reading of a story, a parent can offer a high level of support and guidance for their child to enjoy, participate, and practice language, vocabulary, and literacy development. In addition, reading together helps create a safe environment conducive for close parent-child bonding and the overall improvement of family dynamics.

Rationale: It is important that children understand that printed language is connected to oral language. Once a child understands that spoken words are made up of specific sounds that are associated with certain letters of the alphabet, the child will begin to build a strong foundation for literacy development and reading. Reading done by parents in the home setting is an effective way of modeling the importance of language and vocabulary development. Reading at home is a chance for a parent to not only share a story with his child, but it also gives multiple opportunities to develop literacy, mathematical, and social skills.

Opportunities for literacy development during reading time:

- I. Reading time should be an enjoyable event for the entire family. It is a time that children can learn a great deal of information, but it is also a special time of bonding between parent and child. Before reading time attempt to be prepared. Take a few minutes to read the story to yourself before reading it to your child. This will help you decide how you can read the story in an interesting and enthusiastic manner.
- II. While you read take the time to use a number of different verbal and nonverbal techniques to bring the story life. Attempt to tell the story with an engaging, expressive manner. Try using different voices for each of the characters in the story or experiment with changing the tone or volume of your voice. Consider the nonverbal aspects of storytelling. Make eye contact with your child every now and then. Use a variety of hand gestures, body movements, and facial expressions as you retell the events in the story. Do whatever you can to make reading time fun and enjoyable for both you and your child. If reading is seen as a fun experience, your child will want to read as often as possible.

- III. As you read also concentrate on pointing out interesting and descriptive words and phrases. If there are any unfamiliar words, help define these for your child. This is a great way to develop vocabulary. Take the time to not only point out the text, but also the illustrations in the book. Let your child build her knowledge and imagination as she hears the words and sees the pictures. The more ways your child can interact with the book, the more she will learn.
- IV. After you have finished reading the book take time to talk with your child about the story. Ask “Wh” questions (who, what, where, when, why) as a way to think about what your child was able to comprehend. Use the ideas in the book to help teach the morals, values, and ethics that are important to you and your family. Above all, continue to talk about the book with your child. By having frequent conversations about the book, you will be demonstrating that reading is both an important and enjoyable time for your family.
- V. Follow Up Activities for Reading Together
 - a. Echo reading
 - b. Choral reading
 - c. Child volunteers to read

Mathematics Connections:

Social Skills: