

BUILDING LANGUAGE SKILLS DURING STORY TIME



“Knowledgeable teachers recognize the value of expanding children’s vocabulary in the course of studying topics of interest and by reading aloud high-quality books with rich vocabulary”
(Tomlinson, H.B. & Hyson, M.)

Promoting Language Skills during Story Time...

- Helps build expressive/receptive language skills
- Exposes children to new vocabulary
- Builds phonemic awareness
- Books can be used to spark discussion
- Oral language lays the foundation for early literacy development
- Storybook reading is the cornerstone of early literacy instruction

Best Practices: Read-Aloud Strategies

- Introduce high frequency vocabulary
- Position book so everyone can see clearly
- Read with excitement
- Use character voices/ inflection
- Be alive and enthusiastic; Be dramatic
- Incorporate age-appropriate language concepts (i.e. colors, size, number, letter and/or sounds, spatial concepts)
- Invite students to fill in the last word/ phrase of sentences
- Paraphrase lengthy or complex text
- Create your own repetitive refrain
- Use a variety of props

Interactive Language Strategies

- Repetitive phrasing
- Incorporate movement
- Role play
- Open-ended questions
- Make predictions
- Compare and Contrast
- Choral reading



Expansion Activities

- Music and movement
- Transition to next activity
- Invite children to respond to your comments or questions about the text or illustration
- Leave the book and materials out for the children to use during work time
- Set up an area centered around the story for reading reenactment
- Have different versions of the same book available
- Create class books based on read aloud themes using student photos

RESOURCES

- Literacy Beginnings by G. Pinnell & I. Fountas
- Websites for Popular Children’s Authors, such as:
 - www.JanBrett.com
 - www.eric-carle.com
- The Art of Reading a Storybook (YouTube Video Series)
- Literacy and the Youngest Learner: Best Practices for Educators of Children from Birth to 5 (V. S Bennett-Armistead, N. K. Duke & A. Mose)
- Speech/Language Lending Library on FCPS 24/7 (FECEP/Head Start)

