Ready to Read: Early Literacy and Kindergarten Preparedness

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Ready to Read Resource Center
AKLA Conference 2016
Five Skills of Early Literacy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
<th>Understanding meaning of words</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Print Conventions</strong></td>
<td>Interest &amp; enjoyment in books</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Letter Knowledge</strong>*</td>
<td>Knowing names, shapes, and sounds of letters</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Phonological Awareness</strong>*</td>
<td>Understanding that words make sounds / ability to recognize sounds</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Background Knowledge</strong></td>
<td>Thinking skills: what things are, how/when/why things are</td>
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* Strongest predictors of reading success at pre-school level
Early Literacy Practices

- BEST PRACTICES based on *Every Child Ready to Read* (ALA)
- Best way to support early literacy is by engaging children through daily activities including:
  - TALKING
  - READING
  - SINGING
  - PLAYING
  - WRITING
TALKING with books

- Babies love the sound of parents’ voices
- Point out and name objects in the pictures
- Ask questions while reading together
- Respond to what child says and extend conversation and introduce new vocabulary in context
SINGING with books

- Singing and rhyming slows down language so that children can hear different sounds that make up words (phonological awareness)

- Sing or chant alphabet books, nursery rhyme books, and rhyming books

- Breaking down sounds helps children when they begin to read printed words

- Songs and rhymes are fun, repetitious, and emotionally satisfying
PLAYING with books

- Child’s first job
- Act out the story and expand on it
- Dramatic play teaches narrative skills
- Teaches children to express themselves and put thoughts into words
WRITING with books

- Trace shapes and letters in the book for fine motor skills
- Act out the actions in the book for gross motor skills
- Ask children to draw pictures about the story
- If children draw their own stories, write captions on a child’s drawing to reinforce the connection between spoken and written language
Reading aloud is the single most important way to get children ready to read in the future.

- Increases vocabulary and general knowledge.
- Demonstrates that printed words tell a spoken story, how to hold a book, the direction that words are read.
- Children who enjoy being read to are more likely to want to learn to read.
- Make reading interactive: have child turn page, ask questions.
And on that cat
there is a mouse,
a slumbering mouse
on a snoozing cat
on a dozing dog
on a dreaming child
on a snoring granny
on a cozy bed
in a napping house,
where everyone is sleeping.
Dialogic reading

- Dialogic reading works
- What is dialogic reading?
- The PEER sequence
  - Prompt
  - Evaluate
  - Expand
  - Repeat
- CROWD: five types of prompts
Reading prompts

CROWD prompts

- **Completion** – with rhymes and repetitive phrases
- **Recall** – revisiting a book that you’ve already read
- **Open-ended** – best with books with rich illustrations
- **Wh**- questions – focus on pictures in the book
- **Distancing** – relating the book to real life experiences
• Read the book directly from front to back, pausing to look at the pictures.
• Talk about the book together, talking about what’s happening in the pictures.
• Practice writing by tracing shapes in the pictures with your finger.
• Play games with the book—act out the story.
• Sing or rhythmically clap the syllables.
Completion prompt:
Parents and children can complete the rhyme, or predict the next animal
On every page you will find evidence of the goose and the dragonfly. Ask the children to look for these animals when you go through each page.
Crows in the cornfield,
caw, caw, caw
Ask questions about plot and character motivations in a book with a story.
Why did the farmer get fat?

The farmer got fat through staying in bed, and the poor duck got fed up with working all day.
Wh- question

Prepare a book for dialogic reading by adding notes to the pages you want to discuss. Don’t use prompts for every page or even every book. Keep it light and fun!
Countdown to Kindergarten

Partnership between Anchorage Public Library & Anchorage School District

Stephanie Schott | Youth Services Librarian @APL | AkLA 2016
Before we start...

What do you think it means for a child to be ready for kindergarten?

&

What do you think parents need to know to help their child get ready?
Program Info

• Monthly at two APL locations
• Kits from ASD
• Short story time
• Mainly hands-on activities
• Focus on a theme
• Take home handouts
ASD Kits

Tubs full of activities based on a theme & info binder

- MAKE A SHAKER
  Phonological awareness
- I CAN DO IT MYSELF
  Self reliance
- MAGNETS
  Science/Curiosity
- HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
  Social Emotional
- MOVE TO LEARN
  Motor skills
- SHAPE IT UP
  Shape recognition
- POST OFFICE
  Letter recognition
Inside a Kit

- Binder
- Content list
- 5-10 activities
- Station signs
- Take home handouts
  - Follow up activities
  - Educational info
Fishing for Feelings

**Objective**
- Talk about feelings
- Introduce new words

**Questions**
- What does ______ mean?
- Have you ever felt ______?
- Tell me about the last time you felt ______.
- What happens when a grown up feels ______?

* **Materials:** Paper, paperclips, magnet, string, and stick
Popsicle Stick Kazoo

**Objective**
- Following directions
- Experiment with sound
- Inspire curiosity

**Questions**
- How do you think this works?
- What do you think will happen if we move the paper closer together?

* **Materials:** Paper, rubber bands, tape, and popsicle sticks
Great way to share information with parents & make community more aware.
Take the Program Home

**Activity handouts**
- Extend the learning at home
- Encourage child/parent interactions
- Chance to practice new skills

**Bookmarks**
- Reading suggestions
- Tips for school readiness
Get Feedback

- Surveys
- Talk with children and parents
- Learn what your families enjoy the most
- Ask for suggestions
Our Findings

- Parents and kids LOVE things that can be done at home
- Everyone loves child-directed programs
- Practice table = cutting, gluing, and coloring
- Need more than one person to run program – having educators attend helps answer questions
- Program was best attended starting in February – parents begin touring schools
- Parents don’t always see educational value in all activities
Contact Us with Questions

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