

AGENDA

Creating Environments to Support Literacy

(Local Information, Your Name, Date)

Participant Objectives

In this workshop participants will:

- Gain a deeper understanding of how to plan and set up preschool and kindergarten learning environments that support emergent literacy and foster active learning.
- Acquire strategies for creating developmentally appropriate print-rich environments that facilitate meaning, support diversity, and promote literacy development.
- Collect ideas for literacy materials, props, and ideas to enhance learning centers.

1. Opening Activity: Literacy Everywhere
2. Welcome and Logistics
3. Introducing the Topic: Environments to Support Literacy
4. Activity: Print has a Purpose
5. Activity: Infusing Literacy in Centers
6. Discussion
7. Closure

If 3 hours, add:

8. Activity: Dramatic Play Themes to Support Literacy
9. Discussion
10. Closure

KEY ELEMENTS IN ORGANIZING SPACE & MATERIALS

1. Establish boundaries between learning centers. Centers are well-defined.
2. Purposefully plan traffic patterns. A clear traffic pattern allows children to move around the room while not interfering with other children's activities.
3. Establish quiet zones. Establish private places. Include soft areas in your room.
4. Think about how you will supervise all of the centers. Can you see all parts of the room?
5. Store materials near use. Play space is near shelves.
6. Label bins/shelves with words and pictures, and organize materials based on use & type.
7. Child-related displays. Appropriate materials are displayed for children. Most of the displays in the room and on the walls are at child's eye level. Much of the display is work done by children with individualized work predominating.
8. Quiet areas are separated from noisy centers. Quiet and active centers are placed to not interfere with one another.
9. Materials are accessible & attractively displayed. Avoid clutter.
10. Books are available to children in many areas as well as the Library Corner. There is liberal inclusion of meaningful words, letters, and symbols throughout the room. Writing materials are located in many centers as well as the writing center.
11. The environment promotes an acceptance of diversity. Diversity encompasses different races, cultures, ages, abilities and gender. Materials show diversity in a positive way and avoid stereotypes. There are many books, pictures and materials (multi-racial or multi-cultural dolls, music, props, puzzles, clothes, games, manipulatives and musical instruments) accessible to children.
12. Teacher materials are stored separately from children's materials. Avoid clutter.
13. Health and Safety: Tissues are placed conveniently in the classroom. Provisions for toileting (toilet paper, soap, paper towel, trash) are convenient and accessible for children. All poisons, medicines, and other substances labeled "Keep out of reach of children" are stored in locked cabinets and inaccessible to children. Electrical outlets are covered or child-proof. There are no loose electrical cords. There are no major safety or health hazards.
14. Ensure there is something beautiful in varied places in your room to wonder over and ponder.

*Developing the Literate Play Environment*¹

1. Literacy is speaking, listening, reading, writing & viewing.
 2. Establish a literacy-rich learning atmosphere.
 3. Establish a print-rich learning environment.
 4. Establish at least one classroom literacy center.
 5. Provide books and varied writing materials in many centers.
 6. Introduce literacy props to familiar play areas (dramatic play themes).
 7. Systematically collect literacy materials.
 8. Store literacy materials for dramatic play themes in an accessible location.
 9. Read to children informally and in small groups.
 10. Continually self-evaluate and reflect on your role in facilitating literacy through active learning.
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KNOWLEDGE OF WRITTEN LANGUAGE¹

Written language serves a variety of **functions**.

- Environmental
- Occupational
- Informational
- Recreational

Written language takes a variety of **forms**. Form is related to purpose and content (menus, lists, thank you notes, signs, etc.).

Written language has significant **features**.

- Print carries meaning.
- Written messages must correspond with oral language.
- Letters and words are written in linear fashion.
- Written language is predictable.
- There is a relationship between letter patterns and sound patterns.
- Words have boundaries.

¹Materials adapted from Owocki, G. (1999). *Literacy through play* & Morrow, L.M. (2001). *Literacy Development in the early years: Helping children read and write*.

ACTIVITY: INFUSING LITERACY IN CENTERS

What materials can you add?

What specific ideas do children need to guide their work and play so that literacy learning is fostered? What is your role?

What expectations/standards does this center now address?

Literacy Materials & Center Books

DRAMATIC PLAY

Materials

- blank address books
- books and magazines
- calendars, date books, appointment books
- clipboards
- empty food containers
- maps
- menus, recipe cards, and cookbooks
- message boards
- newspapers
- notepads
- old checkbooks
- typewriter or computer keyboard
- pencils, pens, markers
- photo albums
- price lists
- receipt books
- signs
- stationery, greeting cards, and envelopes
- telephone book

Book Suggestions

- Amazing Grace (Mary Hoffman)
- Friends at School (Rochelle Bunnett, Matt Brown)
- Go Away, Big Green Monster (Ed Emberly)
- Going to the Dentist (Fred Rogers, Jim Judkis)
- Going to the Doctor (Anne Civardi)
- Goodnight Moon (Margaret Wise Brown)
- Guess How Much I Love You (Sam McBratney)
- Hats, Hats, Hats (Ann Morris)
- How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon? (Jane Yolen)
- How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight? (Jane Yolen)
- Jesse Bear, What Will You Wear? (Nancy White Carlstrom)

- Let's Talk About It: Adoption (Fred Rogers, Jim Judkis)
- Let's Talk About It: Extraordinary Friends (Fred Rogers, Jim Judkis)
- Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse (Keven Henkes)
- Making Friends (Fred Rogers, Jim Judkis)
- Mama, Do You Love Me? (Barbara M. Joosse)
- Manners (Ailiki)
- Miss Spider's Tea Party (David Kirk)
- "More, More, More," Said the Baby (Vera Williams)
- My First Day at Preschool (Edwina Riddell)
- The Napping House (Audrey Wood)
- New Baby (Fred Rogers, Jim Judkis)
- The Paper Bag Princess (Robert Munsch)
- Peter's Chair (Ezra Jack Keats)
- Talk, Baby! (Harriet Ziefert)
- Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born (Jamie Lee Curtis)
- What Is Your Language? (Debra Leventhal)
- When a Pet Dies (Fred Rogers, Jim Judkis)
- Where's Spot? (Eric Hill)
- William's Doll (Charlotte Zolotow)

TOYS AND GAMES

Materials

- alphabet bingo
- alphabet blocks
- alphabet puzzles
- basic vocabulary pictures and games
- environmental print puzzles
- labeled picture cards
- letter sorting and matching games
- magnetic letters

- matching games
- name games
- rhyming picture games
- sequence cards
- sorting and classification materials

Book Suggestions

- Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse (Leo Lionni)
- Can You See What I See?: Picture Puzzles to Search and Solve (Walter Wick)
- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom (Bill Martin and John Archambault)
- I Spy (Walter Wick)
- Look Alikes Jr. (Joan Steiner)
- Max's Toys: A Counting Book (Rosemary Wells)
- Olivia and the Missing Toy (Ian Falconer)

ART

Materials

- alphabet cookie cutters
- alphabet rubber stamps
- alphabet sponges
- brochures and pamphlets
- chalkboards and colored chalk
- colored pens and pencils
- greeting cards
- magazines and newspapers
- titled posters of famous artwork
- pre-made blank books to illustrate
- Wikki Sticks

Book Suggestions

- The Art Lesson (Tomie dePaola)
- Babar's Museum of Art (Laurent De Brunhoff)
- Harold and the Purple Crayon (Crockett Johnson)
- I Spy: An Alphabet in Art (Lucy Micklethwait)
- Legend of the Indian Paintbrush (Tomie dePaola)

- Little Blue and Little Yellow (Leo Lionni)
- Matthew's Dream (Leo Lionni)
- Mouse Paint (Ellen Stoll Walsh)
- Museum ABCs (Metropolitan Museum of Art)
- My Crayons Talk (Patricia Hubbard)
- When Picasso Met Mootisse (Nina Laden)

DISCOVERY

Materials

- clipboards
- graph paper
- index cards, note pads
- journals
- nature magazines
- pencils, pens, markers, crayons
- pet care books and posters
- plant care instructions
- plant and animal identification cards
- seed catalogs and packets

Book Suggestions

Picture books

- The Carrot Seed (Ruth Kraus)
- Changes, Changes (Pat Hutchins)
- The Grouchy Ladybug (Eric Carle)
- A House for Hermit Crab (Eric Carle)
- Mickey's Magnet (Ruth Kraus)
- Parts (Tedd Arnold)
- Rainbow Fish (Marcus Pfister)
- Round Trip (Ann Jonas)
- The Salamander Room (Ann Mazer)
- The Snail's Spell (Joanne Ryder)
- The Snowy Day (Ezra Jack Keats)
- Two Bad Ants (Chris Van Allsburg)
- The Very Busy Spider (Eric Carle)

- The Very Hungry Caterpillar (Eric Carle)
- The Very Quiet Cricket (Eric Carle)

Informational/Non-Fiction

- Bugs! Bugs! Bugs! (Bob Barner)
- A Color of His Own (Leo Lionni)
- Diary of a Wombat (Jackie French)
- Diary of a Worm (Doreen Cronin)
- The Magic School Bus Inside a Beehive (Joanna Cole)
- Me and My Amazing Body (Joan Sweeney)
- Me and My Senses (Joan Sweeney)
- My First Body Book (Christopher Rice)
- My Visit to the Aquarium (Aliki)
- Watch Them Grow (Linda Martin)
- The Way Things Work (David Macaulay)
- What Do You Do With a Tail Like This? (Steve Jenkins & Robin Page)

Alphabet Books

- African Animals ABC (Sarah Schuette)
- The Alphabet Tree (Leo Lionni)
- Animalia (Graeme Base)
- The Butterfly Alphabet (Kjell Sandved)
- Eating the Alphabet (Lois Ehlert)
- An Edible Alphabet (Bonnie Christenson)
- The Flower Alphabet Book (Jerry Pallotta)
- The Icky Bug Alphabet Book (Jerry Pallotta)
- Old Black Fly (Jim Aylesworth)
- The Yucky Reptile Alphabet Book (Jerry Pallotta)

SAND AND WATER

Materials

- alphabet cookie cutters or sand molds
- vinyl bathtub books
- chart with recipe for sand pies
- ice cubes with small plastic letters frozen inside
- laminated name cards, words, or letters
- list of rules generated by the children about sand and water play
- local business logos attached to popsicle sticks or drinking straws
- posters of sand castles and boats
- prediction charts: What Will Happen?
- signs printed with permanent markers on Styrofoam meat trays
- sink-or-float sorting charts
- sponge or foam letters
- storybook characters (laminated or plastic) and related props (twigs for trees, Legos, plastic houses, vehicles)
- street or traffic signs

Book Suggestions

- At the Beach (Ann Rockwell)
- Beach Day (Karen Roosa)
- Better Not Get Wet, Jesse Bear (Nancy White Carlstrom)
- Bubble, Bubble (Mercer Mayer)
- Curious George Goes to the Beach (H. A. Rey)
- In the Middle of the Puddle (Mike Thaler)
- In the Sand (Kate Burns)
- Let's Try It Out in the Water (Seymour Simon)
- On My Beach There Are Many Pebbles (Leo Lionni)
- The Quicksand Book (Tomie dePaola)

- Sally Goes to the Beach (Stephen Huneck)
- Sand (Ellen Prager)
- The Sand Castle (Brenda Shannon Yee and Thea Kliros)
- Sandcastle (Mick Inkpen)
- Sea, Sand and Me! (Patricia Hubbell)
- Splish, Splash (Stephen M. Scott)
- A Swim Through the Sea (Kristin Joy Pratt)

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Materials

- alphabet songs on tape or CDs
- color-coded music cards to use with xylophones, tone bells, or melody bells
- posters of musical instruments
- rebus (picture) movement cards
- song charts and cards
- songs for following oral directions (Hokey Pokey or Looby Loo)
- taped listening activities

Book Suggestions

Songs That Promote Phonological Awareness

- The Ants Go Marching
- Apples and Bananas
- Baby Bumblebee
- Down by the Bay
- Eensy-Weensy Spider
- Hokey Pokey
- John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt
- My Bonny Lies Over the Ocean
- The Name Game
- Polly Wolly Doodle
- A Sailor Went to Sea, Sea, Sea
- Someone's in the Kitchen (Fe, Fi, Fiddle-I-O)
- Willoughby, Wallaby Woo

Books About Music and Movement

- Angelina Ballerina (Helen Craig)
- The Bat Boy and His Violin (Gavin Curtis)
- Ben's Trumpet (Rachel Isadora)
- Best-Loved Children's Songs from Japan (Yoko Imoto)
- Cada Nino: Every Child: A Bilingual Songbook for Kids (Tish Hinojosa and Lucia Angela Perez)
- Charlie Parker Played Bebop (Chris Raschka)
- Getting to Know You!: Rodgers and Hammerstein Favorites (Richard Rodgers)
- How Sweet the Sound: African-American Songs for Children (Wade and Cheryl Hudson)
- Hush!: A Thai Lullaby (Minfong Ho)
- Max Finds Two Sticks (Brian Pickney)
- M Is for Music (Kathleen Krull)
- Music, Music for Everyone (Vera B. Williams)
- Philadelphia Chicken: A Too Illogical, Zoological Musical Review (Sandra Boynton and Michael Ford)
- Rap a Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles - Think of That (Leo Dillon and Diane Dillon)
- Song and Dance Man (Karen Ackerman)
- Take Me Out of the Bathtub and Other Silly Dilly Songs (Allen Katz)
- Tessa's Tip-Tapping Toes (Carolyn Crimi)
- A Tisket, A Tasket (Ella Fitzgerald)
- What a Wonderful World (Ashley Bryan)
- Willie (Virginia Kroll)

Song Storybooks

- A-Hunting We Will Go! (Stephen Kellogg)
- Baby Beluga (Raffi)

- Do Your Ears Hang Low?: A Love Story (Caroline Jayne Church)
- Down by the Bay (Raffi)
- Inch by Inch: The Garden Song (David Mallet)
- Just the Two of Us (Will Smith)
- Mary Had a Little Lamb (Mary Ann Hoberman)
- Mary Wore Her Red Dress and Henry Wore His Green Sneakers (Merle Peek)
- Miss Mary Mack (Mary Ann Hoberman)
- There Once Was a Man Named Michael Finnegan (Mary Ann Hoberman)
- There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly (Simm Taback)
- Today is Monday (Eric Carle)

COOKING

Materials

- alphabet cookie cutters
- blank recipe cards
- calendar for recording snack helpers
- cookbooks
- coupons
- environmental print on containers of ingredients used in recipes
- graphs and charts, for example,
 - Did you like the soup? Yes/No
 - How many of each fruit did we use in our salad?
 - Healthy Foods/Not Healthy Foods
- grocery store circulars
- labels for utensils and ingredients
- letter molds
- menus
- nutritional charts
- paper
- picture and word (rebus) recipe cards
- recipe charts
- writing tools

Book Suggestions

Storybooks

- Bear Wants More (Karma Wilson)
- Bread and Jam for Frances (Russell Hoban)
- Bread, Bread, Bread (Ann Morris)
- Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (Judi Barrett)
- Corn is Maize: A Gift from the Indians (Ailiki)
- Dim Sum for Everyone (Grace Lin)
- Eating the Alphabet (Lois Ehlert)
- Everybody Cooks Rice (Nora Dooley)
- Growing Colors (Bruce McMillan)
- Growing Vegetable Soup (Lois Ehlert)
- How Are You Peeling? (Saxon Freymann and Joost Elffers)
- The Hungry Thing (Jan Spelman)
- I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie (Alison Jackson)
- Magda's Tortillas (Becky Chavarria-Chairez)
- Matzah Ball Soup (Joan Rothenberg)
- In My Momma's Kitchen (Jerdene Nolen)
- More Spaghetti, I Say! (Rita Golden Gelman)
- Pancakes for Breakfast (Tomie dePaola)
- Pickles to Pittsburg (Ron Barrett)
- Strega Nona (Tomie dePaola)
- Today is Monday (Eric Carle)
- Tony's Bread (Tomie dePaola)
- The Tortilla Factory (Gary Paulsen)
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar (Eric Carle)
- Who Took the Cookie from the Cookie Jar? (Bonnie Philemon and Lass Sturges)

Children's Cookbooks

- Betty Crocker Kids Cook! (Betty Crocker Editors)
- Blue Moon Soup (Gary Goss)
- Children's Quick and Easy Cookbook (Angela Wilkes)
- Cooking with Herbs: The Vegetarian Dragon (Julie Bass)
- Delicious Dishes: Creole Cooking for Children (Berthe Amos)
- Kids Cooking: A Very Slightly Messy Manual (Klutz Press)
- Kids First Cookbook (American Cancer Society)
- The Kids Multicultural Cookbook: Food and Fun Around the World (Deanna F. Cook)
- Mother Goose Cookbook: Rhymes and Recipes for the Very Young (Marianna Mayer)
- Once Upon a Recipe: Favorite Tales, Food and FUNtivities (Judy Edelman)
- Pretend Soup and Other Real Recipes for Preschoolers and Up (Mollie Katzen)

COMPUTERS**Materials**

- bookbinding supplies
- hard copies of books related to interactive storybook software
- chart with picture and word directions for starting and shutting down the computer
- colored adhesive labels with words such as off, on, enter, delete, up, down, forward, backwards, print, stop, go, play, start
- individual children's word banks (a collection of words that are important to them, written on cards and held together with a ring)
- name cards for children to refer to when typing their names or those of their friends
- picture dictionaries for reference when typing
- printer, ink, and paper
- sign-up sheets for computer use
- sign with rules for Computer Area safety and equipment care

Book Suggestions*Children's Books Related to Computers*

- Arthur's Computer Disaster (Marc Brown)
- The Computer from A to Z (Bobbie Kalman)
- Franklin and the Computer (Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark)
- A House With No Mouse (P. S. Tinsley)
- Look Inside a Computer (Anna Curti)
- The Magic Schoolbus Gets Programmed (Nancy White)
- Patrick's Dinosaurs on the Internet (Carol Carrick)

Interactive Storybook Software

- The Art Lesson (Riverdeep)
- Arthur's Teacher Trouble (Riverdeep)
- Cat in the Hat (The Learning Company)
- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom (Davidson and Associates)
- Dr. Seuss ABCs (The Learning Company)
- Green Eggs and Ham (The Learning Company)
- The Hare and the Tortoise (Broderbund)
- Just Grandma and Me (Broderbund)
- Just Me and My Mom (Broderbund)
- Little Monster at School (Broderbund)

- Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel (Simon and Schuster)
- Stellanluna (Riverdeep)

Software for Building Early Literacy Skills

- Ani's Rocket Ride (Coach)
- Bailey's Book House (Edmark)
- Bert and Ernie's Computer Phone (Learning Company)
- Circletime Tales Deluxe (Don Johnston)
- Clifford the Big Red Dog Reading (Scholastic)
- Curious George PreK ABCs (Houghton Mifflin)
- Dr. Seuss Reading Games (Learning Company)
- I Spy Junior (Scholastic)
- JumpStart Preschool (Knowledge Adventure)
- Kid Pix (Learning Company)
- Kid's Work Deluxe (Davidson and Associates)
- Learn Together with Ani (Coach)
- Monkeys Jumping on the Bed (SoftTouch)
- Photo Kit Junior (Coach)
- Stanley's Sticker Stories (Edmark)

OUTDOORS

Materials

- adhesive labels for Ziploc natural collection bags
- bird identification charts, laminated and hung in trees
- blank books or journals
- clipboards, paper, and writing tools
- labeled muffin tins, egg cartons, or ice cube trays for collecting and sorting
- labels for garden plants
- laminated environmental print signs

- nature guides, plant and animal identification books
- pretend driver's licenses
- props for retelling stories
- sidewalk chalk
- traffic signs

Book Suggestions

- Alpha Bugs (David A. Carter)
- Around the Pond: Who's Been Here? (Lindsay Barrett George)
- Carl's Afternoon in the Park (Alexandra Day)
- The Carrot Seed (Ruth Krauss)
- Clifford and the Big Storm (Norman Bridwell)
- Diary of a Worm (Doreen Cronon)
- Franklin and the Thunderstorm (Paulette Bourgeois)
- The Giving Tree (Shel Silverstein)
- The Grouchy Ladybug (Eric Carle)
- Growing Colors (Bruce McMillan)
- Henry Hikes to Fitchburg (D.B. Johnson)
- I Wish I Were a Butterfly (James Howe)
- The Icky Bug Alphabet Book (Jerry Pallotta)
- In the Small, Small Pond (Denise Fleming)
- It Looked Like Spilt Milk (Charles G. Shaw)
- Miss Tizzy (Libba Moore Gray)
- Planting a Rainbow (Lois Ehlert)
- Roxaboxen (Alice McLerran)
- The Snowy Day (Ezra Jack Keats)
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar (Eric Carle)

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Excerpt from *Literacy: The Creative Curriculum Approach*.

Good teachers use ELAS to continually self-evaluate & reflect on their role in facilitating literacy through active learning.

Do my children read and write during play?

Are materials meaningful?

Do I take the time to capitalize on teachable moments?

What functions does literacy serve in my children's play?

Are my children exploring a variety of genres and forms of written language?

Do they have the materials they need for explorations of the features of print?

A Ha! Slip

