

Ready to Succeed

An Early Literacy and School Readiness Newsletter for Professionals

Reading Books with Infants

Reading to every child every day is more than likely a priority in your program. Realistically, this can often prove quite challenging when your room is filled with infants and toddlers. Reading stories with this age group challenges you to read the story while still remaining attentive to the rest of the children. Having a group story time with curious crawlers and walkers may not be the answer. Here are some suggestions you may find useful:

Helping infants to focus on the book, pointing out pictures, turning the pages, then helping them look at the next pictures can become routine. Try sitting in a rocking chair, holding the baby, and reading as you rock. It's not important that the baby look at the book all the time. What is important is that the baby is hearing the language and rhythm of reading and that it is a pleasurable, soothing, and comfortable experience. After only a few times, babies may become more excited when you approach them with a book in your hand.

Babies five to seven months old, who are touching everything and more than likely putting

things in their mouths, are anxious to hold and manipulate the books. Allow babies to touch the pictures, get excited when they recognize a favorite scene, make noises while you read, and wiggle around. Encourage these movements and allow the babies to redirect their attention, then refocus on the book and keep listening. Focus on what interests the baby; don't push for their attention or think that they have lost interest entirely.



After a moment's distraction, five to seven month olds will often return their attention to the book you are reading.

Youngsters, who are scooting, crawling, and pulling up on your legs to try to stand up, can make reading stories a challenge. By this stage, you have probably begun sitting on the floor for your favorite place to read stories. If you begin reading to one child, you will often be joined by more. Sometimes the first one crawls away as you read, that's okay! As long as there is one child near, keep reading the book. If there are no children nearby, wait a moment or two. Show some excitement about the

book to get their attention and the children may crawl back again to listen. Children who are crawling will begin to sit by you for the whole story. The children may often crawl onto your lap, snuggle while you read the book, and help you turn pages. They often look at you, pat the pages, and look down at the book again as the page is turned. Some crawlers are also book jabberers. While the teacher reads, they jabber and try to match their jabbering with your reading. When they find a favorite page they may sometimes laugh, look up at you, and wait for you to remember the significance of the picture.

The research is overwhelming, young children's language, cognitive, social, and emotional development is enhanced when caring adults interact with them around stories and pictures in books. This adult-child interaction is critical to children's future academic success and is well-placed as an important part of your daily routine.

Reference:
Story S-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-r-s for Infants, Toddlers and Twos by Raines, Miller, and Curry-Rood.

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aims to assist everyone involved with the development of young children to value and embrace their role in fostering early literacy and school readiness.

Setting the Scene for Your Camping Adventure



There's nothing like the feeling of the great outdoors! Creating a camping atmosphere in your classroom will stimulate your children's imagination and creativity - not to mention how much fun it will be! Encouraging children to make art projects, play games, sing songs, and follow recipes that relate to a book enables them to express their experiences with reading, which helps them further explore the meaning of what they read. The literature-based activities in this newsletter will help

children connect their reading experiences to other forms of expression.

Be sure to check out books from the library about camping in the great outdoors for display around your camp site. See the list below for some of our suggestions. Naturally, during story time each day read and discuss one of your camping books.

If you have a tent, you can put it up inside or out. If you don't have a tent, create your own by using chairs with blankets or towels

spread over the top. Or ask parents if they would be willing to loan their tent to you for a period of time.

Set up sleeping bags and small pillows inside or outside your tent. Ask the children to bring in sleeping bags from home. No sleeping bags? No problem, just fold a large blanket or comforter in half to make your own.

For added ambience, use toilet paper tubes with red, yellow, and orange tissue paper to create a safe campfire for your camp site.

Books for the Season - Camping

Arthur Goes to Camp

Marc Brown

Backyard Bedtime

Susan Hill

Canoe Days

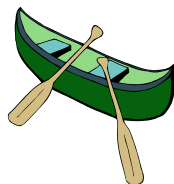
Gary Paulsen

When I Go Camping with Grandma

Marion Dane Bauer

I Don't Want to Go to Camp

Eve Bunting



Molly and Emmett's Camping

Adventure Marylin Hafner

When We Go Camping

Margriet Ruurs

Three Days on a River in a Red Canoe

Vera B. Williams

One-Dog Canoe

Mary Casanova

River Day

Jane B. Mason

When Daddy Took Us Camping

Julie Brillhart

Caillou Goes Camping

Roger Harvey

The Berenstain Bears Go to Camp

Stan and Jan Berenstain

A Day at Damp Camp

George Ella Lyon

Amelia Bedilia Goes Camping

Peggy Parish

Let's Go Fishing

WHAT YOU NEED:

24 jumbo paper clips

fish cut outs - 3 each of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, brown, and black

stick at least 18 inches long
string

magnet with hole in the middle
blue paper - shredded to represent water

large tub or basket (bushel basket works great)

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Attach the paper clips to the mouth end of each fish cut out.

2. Tie one end of the string to the stick and the other end to the magnet.

3. Place the shredded blue paper in the bottom of the basket

4. Arrange the fish inside the bucket. (Note: The number of fish you use will depend on the ability of the child and how you decide to play the fishing game.)

5. Designate a spot for children to stand.

6. Have each child take turns using the magnetic fishing pole



to "catch" the fish.

There are a variety of ways for this game to be implemented. You can use a few fish or all 24 depending on your group. Here are a couple of suggestions:

1. As each child takes a turn, ask them catch all the red fish, then the green fish, etc.
2. Ask each child to catch the fish in a pattern.

This game is a great way to help children develop their coordination and enhance their color recognition skills, which are important for kindergarten readiness.

O' Starry Night

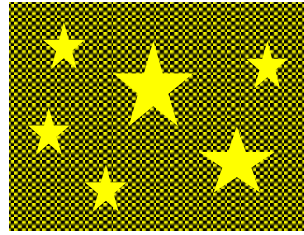
WHAT YOU NEED:

Spray bottles
 Black tempura paint
 Newspaper
 Star cut outs in a variety of sizes
 For an individual project: white or yellow 12x18 construction paper
 For a group project: white or yellow bulletin board paper

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Pour some black paint in the spray bottles and thin with water. Mix well.

2. Cover the area where you will be painting with newspaper.
3. Place the construction or bulletin board paper on top of newspaper.
4. Place the star cut outs at various places on the paper.
5. Spray the black paint over the entire area.
6. Carefully remove the star cut outs and set aside.
7. Set the pictures on clean newspaper to dry.
8. When the starry pictures are



completely dry, hang them on the ceiling.
 9. Lay on the sleeping bags and enjoy gazing up at the stars and telling stories!

Added Learning: Make up a few star pictures ahead of time that represent the simpler constellations, such as they Big and Little Dipper, Cephus the King, Cassiopeia the Queen, or Orion the Hunter.

Big Bear Snacks

After reading the story One-Dog Canoe by Mary Casanova try these tasty bear treats ~

WHAT YOU NEED:

1 half regular size bagel per child
 1 half mini-bagel per child
 1 red or purple grape per child
 1 strawberry half per child
 2 dried apricot halves per child
 low fat cream cheese
 plastic knives
 1 small paper plate per child

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Place the regular size bagel half, flat side down on the paper plate.
2. Spread thin layer of cream cheese on bagel to "attach" the mini-bagel.
3. Place the mini-bagel half, flat side down on top of larger bagel to create the snout area.
4. Spread a small amount of cream cheese on top of mini-



5. Place the strawberry half on top of small bagel for the nose.
6. Cut the grape in half and place each half on above the snout area for the grizzly bear's eyes.
7. Spread a small amount of cream cheese on the edge of the apricot halves to "attach" the ears.

Try making this as a station activity.

Camping Songs

Here We Go Camping

Sung to: "The Ants Go Marching"
 By: Paula R. Anderson

Here we go camping,
 we'll have some fun
 Hurrah, hurrah
 Here we go hiking,
 we'll have some fun
 Hurrah, hurrah
 Here we go camping
 and hiking for fun
 We'll have a great time
 before we're done



And we'll all be glad
 That we went camping
 again!

Round the Campfire
 Sung to: "Oh My Darlin'
 Clementine"
 By: Paula R. Anderson

'Round the campfire,
 'Round the campfire,
 'Round the campfire,
 nice and warm
 We are ready to tell stories



'Round the campfire, nice and warm
 'Round the campfire,
 'Round the campfire,
 nice and warm
 We can look up at all the stars
 'Round the campfire,
 nice and warm

Singing songs with children is a great way to develop their language skills.



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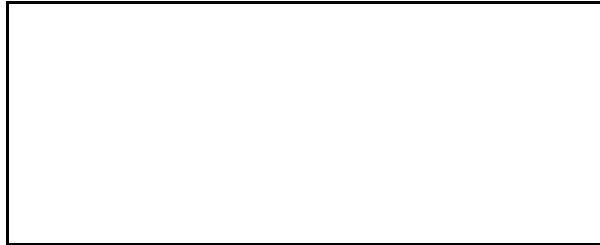
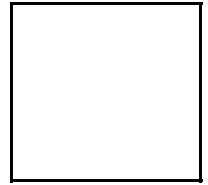
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Ready to Succeed is supported by
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**Serving Placer County
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Ready to Succeed Brochures Available for Distribution to Your Families and Clients



You can order our program's no cost informational brochures to

have on hand to give to your parents and clients. These easy-to-read brochures provide a wonderful opportunity for you to reinforce the importance of reading with children with your families. Brochure titles include: *Reading With Infants*; *Tips for Reading to Toddlers*; *Reading With Your Preschooler*; *Early Literacy Stages*; *Tips for Bedtime Reading*;

and *Reading Wordless Books*. The brochures can be previewed on our website or we would be happy to mail you copies. There are two easy ways to order - by phone 530 889-7350 or through our web pages. Log-on to the UCCE website, go to Ready to Succeed, click on "Informational Brochures" and follow the simple directions.


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