

Lesson Plan:

All About Books

**Early
Childhood**
(3 to 5 yrs)

Subject:

Early literacy skills.

Focus:

Concepts about print (directionality, the message is in the print, one-to-one correspondence, return sweep, front and back part of a book, how to turn the pages, etc.).

Overview:

Preschool children need extensive opportunities to interact with text. Shared reading is an instructional strategy that early childhood education teachers can use to promote early literacy and language development.

Purpose:

To help young children with special needs develop important concepts about print.

Objectives:

1. To learn concepts about print.
2. To develop prediction skills (i.e., what the story will be about, what will happen next).
3. To increase enjoyment of books.

Resource Materials:

- Big shared reading books with simple, patterned, and predictable text that students can learn through repeated readings.
- Mini shared reading books based on the big books/poems/song charts.
- Paper.
- Nontoxic crayons.
- Popsicle sticks to make pointers.
- Brown paper bag to make puppets.

Activities and procedures:

1. Decide ahead of time what concept about print you will emphasize each day.
2. During circle time, draw students' attention to the cover page of the big book. Read the title, and introduce the illustrator and the author. Ask students to look at the illustration and predict what the story will be about. Facilitate participation by accessing students' background knowledge. Once students have shared their predictions, lead to a brief discussion about the story line, drawing on their prior knowledge and personal experiences in order to connect them to the story.
3. Do a picture walk with the students explicitly through the text, page by page, eliciting information from them about what they see and what they think is happening.

4. Read the book and demonstrate book handling skills.
5. During reading center, provide each child with a

mini book so that the students have the opportunity to practice book handling skills. Have them chorally read the book.

Extension Activities:

- Make variations of the class books to read in the reading center.
- Make take-home books to reread to family members.
- Make pointers by gluing miniature book characters onto them to use while reading to practice the concept of directionality.
- Have students color drawings of the book characters and glue them onto paper bags to make puppets used for role-play during the story.

Tying It All Together:

Concepts about print are important precursors to reading. Children between the ages of 3 and 5 years learn that print, not pictures, carries the message. Children also learn literacy terms such as *letter*, *word*, and *capital*. Children with special needs can learn these skills through repeated demonstrations and hands-on activities.

Visit www.sagepub.com/gordonbiddle to access templates of these lesson plans.