

Activities for Acquiring Kindergarten Skills

Emergent Literacy

- Alphabet naming, writing the alphabet and matching upper and lower case letters (concentration and matching games).
- Clapping Syllables, say own name and words and count with fingers. Which word is longer? Horse or hippopotamus?
- Picture matching by beginning sounds (bat, boy), draw pictures and label with temporary spelling, make personal ABC book.
- Concepts of words by choral and echo reading, finger point reading of easy predictable books.
- Retell a story by video or audio recording of child retelling a story, make a book in own pictures and retell story.
- Listen to stories, nursery rhymes daily and repeated reading of simple, short books.
- Retell simple stories in logical sequence with details.
- Practice rhyming words, make nonsense rhyming words. Play "I spy with my little eye, something that rhymes with cat".
- Practice, practice, practice words ... it takes 4 to 14 times to successfully remember a word and some students need up to 50 repetitions.
- Read and re-read books. For developing independent reading, find books in which the child can recognize 19 out of 20 words automatically once they begin learning the cvc words and sight words.
- The amount of reading children do predicts the growth of reading comprehension across the elementary years. The more you read correlates with how good of a reader you will be. It is the best way to acquiring an extensive vocabulary!
- Turn off the t.v., computer and video games and spend time reading. The best memories of childhood include being cuddled up with a book and read to. It is a positive experience that can be the most significant in a child's life determining their own success in developing reading skills. Read-Alouds present the world of imagination and forms of literature, which children can't yet read independently. Reading to a child exposes him/her to written syntax and vocabulary.
- Pattern or Predictable Books (Brown Bear, Brown Bear) teaches print concepts and provides motivation. Keep and reread all of our little class-made language pattern books.
- Decodable Text (phonic style books) reinforces sound-symbol repetitions that have been taught.
- Pretend reading and writing (pictures, scribbles, symbols) is an important developmental stage. Random letter strings and temporary (phonetic) spelling will emerge with predominant sounds and then first and last consonants.