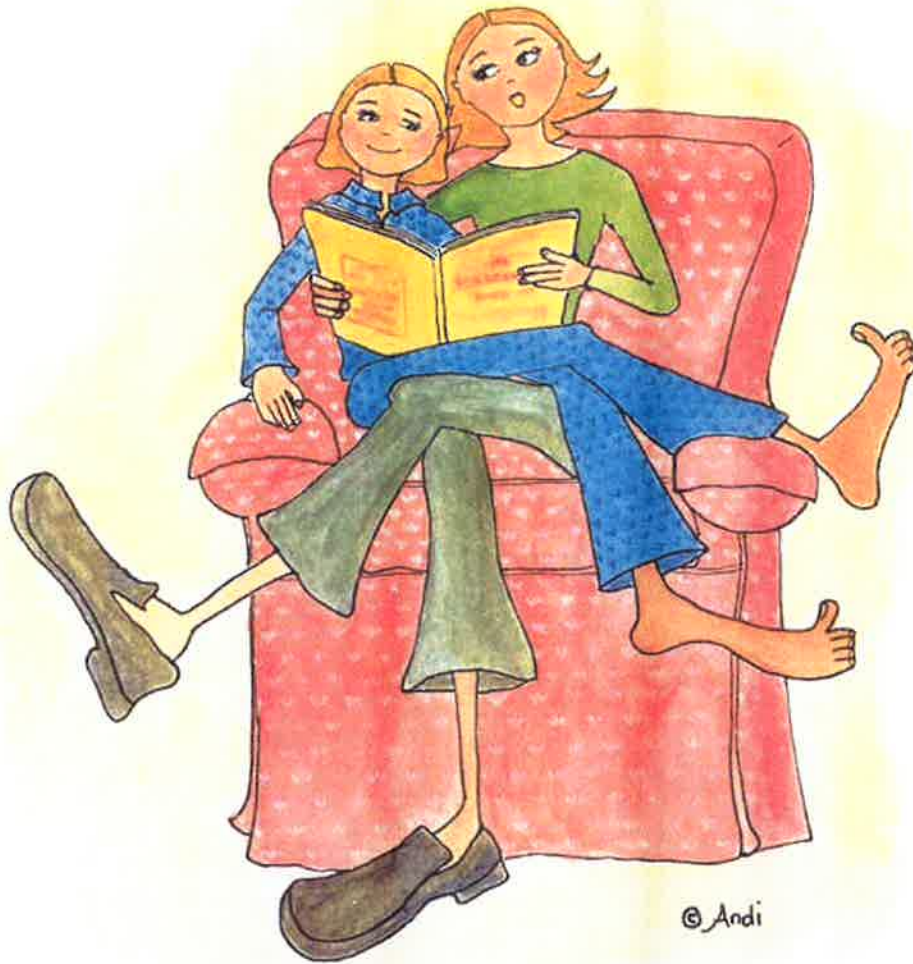


BUILDING BLOCKS *for Literacy*TM



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Activity Guide

for promoting your child's
early reading success



STERN CENTER FOR LANGUAGE & LEARNING

Phonological Awareness...

understanding that words are made up of 'sound' parts

Syllables (beats in a word)

Being aware of syllables helps us learn new vocabulary, sound-out words and spell.

GUESS MY WORD

Have your child practice putting word parts together. Tell him you are going to the 'li...brar...y.'

YOU TAP MY BACK, I'LL TAP YOURS

Tell your child that you are going to tap out the name of someone in the family on her back. See if she can guess whose name it is.

CLAP IT OUT

Have your child clap out the beats in his or her name (three claps for Sa-man-tha, two for Pe-ter). Or jump, karate chop, rubberstamp or lay out objects (like rocks or raisins) for each beat in a word. Whose name is the longest in the family? Shortest?



TALK LIKE A ROBOT

Talk... ing... in... a... mon... o... tone... helps... kids... fo... cus... on... syl... la... bles.

SING!

Music makes us more aware of syllables because they are sung with different notes: 'twin... kle... twin... kle... lit... tle... star' and with different rhythm than spoken language: 'I've ___been workin' on the rail___road.'



Phonological Awareness...

understanding that words are made up of 'sound' parts

Phonemes (single speech sounds)

The ability to think about individual sounds in words is one of the strongest indicators of future reading success.

LOOK FOR BOOKS AND SONGS WITH ALLITERATION

Saying sentences such as "Sammy snake slithered south" is super for separating single sounds.



WHAT IF THE WHOLE WORLD STARTED WITH MY SOUND?

"My name, Daddy, starts with the /d/ sound. What if everything started with that sound? Your name would be Doseph! We would be sitting in the ditchen..."

...Get the didea?

(DON'T) FINISH WHAT YOU START

Having lasagna for dinner? Tell your child, "Tonight we're having /l/..." If they can't figure it out, keep adding one more sound until they get it - /l/ .../u/.../z/.../ah/.../n/.../y/.../u/

SING!

Songs provide great opportunities to play with speech sounds. Single sounds get repeated (think of David Bowle's "ch...ch...ch...ch...changes!" or stretched out like Carly Simon's "anticipaaaaaaation"). So even if you can't carry a tune, go ahead and break out in song when the spirit moves you!



Phonological Awareness...

understanding that words are made up of 'sound' parts



Rhyming

Knowing that words sound alike and making our own rhymes helps us predict words in reading, learn new words and remember them.

"I SPY" WITH A TWIST

Play "I Spy" with your child by giving a rhyme as a hint: "I spy something that rhymes with ____".

NICKNAMES

Make up silly terms of endearment for each other!

"Daddy-addy-badaddy"

"Tessie Tutu, I love you-too!"

"Michael, Michael Motorcycle"

"Miss Molly, by Golly"

READ LOTS OF RHYMING BOOKS!

Songs, poems and stories that rhyme are easy to memorize and help train little ears in rhythm and rhyme.

Don't forget the classics! Nursery rhymes, playground chants, lullabies and Dr. Seuss books endure because they are so effective. Plus, they link us to our past and to each other.

SING!

Most lyrics rhyme. Find songs you and your child love. Make up your own.



Shared Book Reading

Kids who associate reading with warmth, closeness and security become lifelong readers. Besides being a great way to connect with your child, reading and talking about books is key for helping your children develop language, build comprehension and learn more about themselves and their world.

WHAT DO YOU READ ?

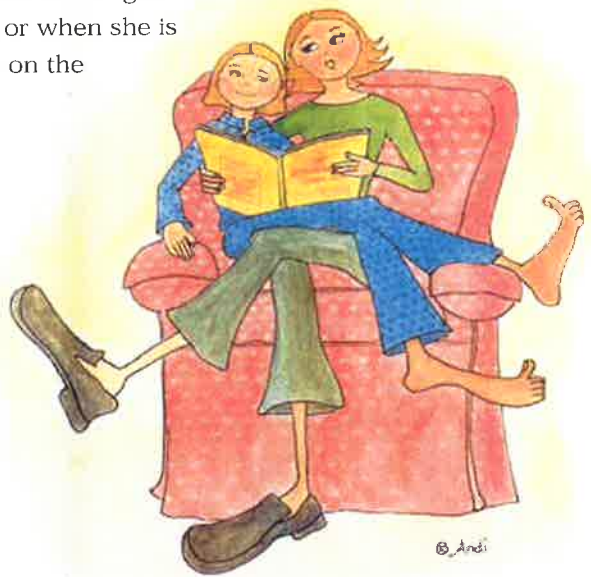
EVERYTHING! Magazines, the comics, signs, notes, recipes, webpages and books, books, books. Let your child choose whatever books she wants at the library, but check out some that you will enjoy, too. Your enthusiasm will be contagious. While you're at it, check out something just for you. Parents modeling reading is powerful stuff.

WHERE SHOULD WE READ?

ANYWHERE! Position baskets and boxes of books around the house so you can reach for a book when opportunity knocks—the laundry room, the porch, under the dining room table, next to the toybox and, of course, the most popular reading room, the bathroom!

WHEN SHOULD WE READ?

ANYTIME! In addition to quiet times like bedtime, pack a tote bag and try reading as you wait at the supermarket check-out counter or the bus stop. Have a wiggly kid who doesn't seem to sit still through a whole book? Look for times when you have a captive audience - when he is eating a snack or when she is sitting on the potty.



Speech to Print Connection

People are motivated to read and write because we know that print contains a message. We also know that anything we say can be put into print.

IF YOU CAN SAY IT, YOU CAN WRITE IT!

Have your child dictate to you for a thank you note, email, story or reminder. Write down exactly

what he says, not making any corrections for grammar or pronunciation. Read it back to him, pointing to each word as you go.

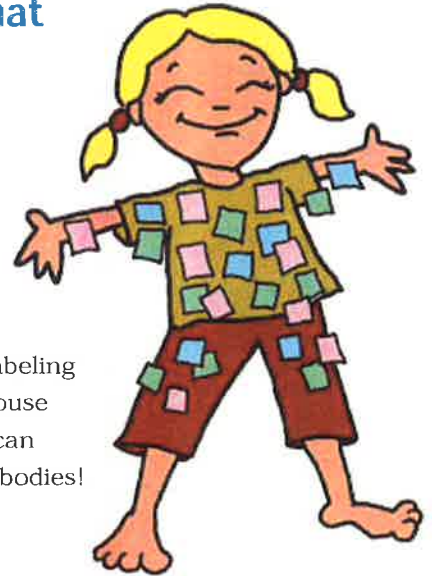


SAY WHAT?

Look for words with speech bubbles (like *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* by Mo Willems). Cut your own speech bubbles out of white paper and add them to magazine pictures and family photos. Don't limit it to people. Trucks, machines, animals and things in nature "say" sounds too. Figure out the spelling together and get ready to giggle.

STICK TO IT!

Post-It Notes make labeling objects around the house quick and easy. You can even label your own bodies!



SIZE IT UP

Look for books that use different size print for shouting and whispering (such as *Snuggle Puppy* by Sandra Boynton). Share with your child how you know when to adjust the volume.

BINGO WITH A TWIST

"There was a mommy who had a kid and Colby was his name-o,
C-O-L-B-Y..."

