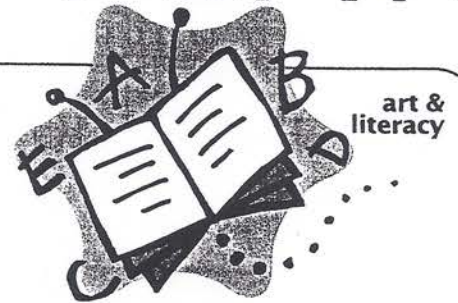


ACTIVITY PLAN

EASY-TO-USE TEACHING IDEAS FOR FIVES AND SIXES

Stories of Our Lives!

Children will learn more about the writing process as they investigate personal experiences



Materials:

oaktag
book rings
three-hole punch
markers and crayons
scissors
paint and paintbrushes

Developing Skills:

print as a communication tool
sequencing of events
linking oral language and print
symbolic representation

ACTIVITY

Invite children to write and illustrate their own books. Propose a story that relates to an event that is familiar to them: "Let's write about your visit to your grandparents," or "Let's write about our field trip to the park or your new pet." Help them select a theme, elaborate on ideas, and plan a story. Break it down into a beginning, middle, and end.

Work in small groups to assist children with the spelling and writing of the stories. Older children or parent volunteers will be helpful at the beginning of this project. Remember to keep the story line short—around one sentence per page. When they have completed their stories, read them back to the children. If a child needs to dictate the story, rather than writing it on her own, emphasize the link between the words the child says and the printed text.

After children have completed the text portion of the book, talk about how pictures help to tell the story. Provide children with lots of art materials to create their illustrations.

Ask the class to share their books. Remind children to point to the words they are reading and to speak clearly to the "audience." Let the "author" ask for questions or comments when they are done reading.

Remember: Some children will need you to model writing the words and letters for them to copy. Remember to talk about the letter sounds and placement of words. Other children may need to dictate the whole story to you.

TAKE-HOME ACTIVITY

Writing All Around Us. Suggest that when parents take children on an outing or errand, they draw attention to the print all around them. Encourage them to point out road signs, street signs, house numbers, restaurants, gas stations.

BOOKS

I Read Signs

by Tana Hoban
(HarperTrophy, 1987; \$5.99)

I'm Gonna Tell Mama I Want an Iguana

by Tony Johnston
(Putnam, 1990; \$14.95)

Teach Us, Amelia Bedelia*

by Peggy Parish
(Scholastic Inc.; \$3.99)

*To order, call 800-SCHOLASTIC.

Curriculum Connection: MATH



Stories by Number. Review with children the idea that stories can be told with pictures, with words, and with numbers. Using different-colored bear counters, ask children to create a number story using their imagination and language skills. Model a few simple stories so children grasp what you are asking them to do. "There were three bears on the swings. Two more came to play. How many bears in all?" Or, "There were five bears in the sandbox. Two bears went home. How many were left?" Help children tell the story using the bear counters.