

# Building Blocks to Early Literacy



## Listening and Speaking Games and Activities

### Group Games

- Where is the sound? – have children sit in a circle and close their eyes, go a corner of the room and make a noise and have the children point to where the noise is coming from
- Gossip or telephone – have the children sit in a circle and select a child to whisper a word or phrase to the child sitting on their right
- Loud and Soft Hide and Seek
- Songs/activities with instructions – Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Hokey Pokey, Simon Says, Marco Polo, Mother May I, Freeze, etc.
- Copying sound sequences and patterns

### Centre Games and Activities

- Create a listening centre
- Taped instructions
- Taped stories
- Sound canisters and tone bottles
- Sound match-up – match taped sounds to pictures

### Field Trips

- Listening walks – identify sounds from nature, animals, man made, etc.
- Go to places with different sounds – band rehearsal, factory, sports field, forest, waterfalls, etc.

### Onomatopoeia – word imitates or sounds like the thing it names

- Songs – Five Little Ducks, Old MacDonald
- Poems
- Books – Barnyard Banter (Denise Fleming), One Duck Stuck (Phyllis Root), The Snowy Day (Ezra Jack Keats), Where the Wild Things Are (Maurice Sendak)

**Alliteration** – group of words with the same beginning sound

- Tongue twisters – Peter Piper, She Sells Seashells, How Much Wood Would a Woodchuck Chuck
- Books – Six Sick Sheep (Joanna Cole), The Tree Billy Goats Gruff, The Z was Zapped (Chris Van Allsburg)

**Rhyme**

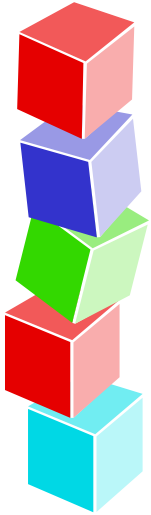
- Have children make up nonsense rhymes
- Poems
- Songs – Down by the Bay, Michael Finnegan, A Hunting We Will Go
- Nursery rhymes
- Rhyming riddles – I am thinking of something that you wear on your feet that rhymes with the word rock (sock)
- Rhyming concentration game
- Tell rhyming stories – Henny Penny
- Books – Brown Bear, Brown Bear and Polar Bear, Polar Bear (Bill Martin, Jr.), The Cat in the Hat (Dr. Seuss), Chicka Chicka Boom Boom (Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault)

**A Dozen Ways to Tell a Story**

- Puppets – paper plates, paper bags, socks, coat hangers, gloves, finger, finger tip, paper cups, sticks
- Reenactment
- Shadow stories
- Flannel board
- Magnets
- No props – using hands, motions and voice
- Use props
- Action stories – We're Going on a Bear Hunt
- Rebus – replace words with pictures, This is the house (picture of house) that Jack (picture of Jack) built., etc.
- Story Cards
- Listening tapes
- Walk on story – draw pictures and symbols and let the children walk through the story

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# Building Blocks to Early Literacy



## Writing Activities

### Why Use Creative Writing?

1. develops the concept that writing is talk written down
2. reinforces left to right and top to bottom concepts
3. encourages and enhances creative expression
4. expands vocabulary
5. reinforces and develops sequencing skills
6. allows for reflection on the past
7. provides an outlet for emotions
8. promotes the desire to understand letter sounds
9. empowers the writer to create his/her own ideas
10. create great “first readers” for children

### Dictionaries

- let each child create their own dictionary
- decorate the front and write the letters of the alphabet inside – one at the top of each page
- have children write new words or add pictures

### Journal Writing

- topics could include – My favourite person or things, I’m happy when, My family, My pet, Sometimes I’m afraid when, I’m happy when, etc.

### Wordless Books

- allow children to retell familiar stories in their own words
- older children can write their “story” and younger children can dictate it

## **Group Writing Activities**

- report on an event, activity or outing as a group, everyone contributes to the story which is then available for everyone to read
- make lists when children are brainstorming
- write the words to favourite songs or poems
- summarize daily activities
- have a story starter and let children complete the story
- write thank you notes to special visitors or guests
- find pen pals and write to them
- write together the day, date, weather conditions and even a thought for the day
- record a story that the children act out

## **Bookmaking**

- book in a can – roll up their story and put it in a decorated can
- book in a box
- baggie book – cut poster paper to fit into the baggie, let children write their stories, place in baggie, zip shut, staple baggies together, cover staples with vinyl tape
- accordion books
- metal ring books
- felt books

# Building Blocks to Early Literacy



## Reading Activities

**Predictable Text** – serves as a bridge between not being able to read and reading on your own

### Types of Predictable Text

- **Repetitive** – has a repetitive line that occurs in predictable places – The Three Little Pigs
- **Rhyming** – has a rhyme that appears normally at the end of a sentence - Anna Banana (C. Chapman), One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish (Dr. Seuss)
- **Cumulative** – has repetition built on the preceding event  
This is the House that Jack Built,  
The Old Lady that Swallowed a Fly
- **Interlocking** – has predictability that follows an interlocking format like question and answer - Brown Bear, Brown Bear (Bill Martin, Jr.)
- **Familiar Cultural** – based on a sequence that is culturally understood such as days of the week, months, numbers, seasons, etc. - The Very Hungry Caterpillar (Eric Carle)

### Predictable Books

Chicken Soup with Rice (Maurice Sendak)

Goodnight Moon (Margaret Wise Brown)

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie (Laura Joffe Numeroff)

The Very Hungry Caterpillar (Eric Carle)

A House is a House for Me (Mary Ann Hoberman)

Barnyard Banter (Denise Fleming)

Brown Bear, Brown Bear and Polar Bear, Polar Bear (Bill Martin, Jr.)

The Gingerbread Man (traditional)

Hattie and the Fox (Mem Fox)

Jump Frog Jump (Robert Kalan)

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears (Verna Aardema)

## **Sight Words**

Having a repertoire of sight words is one of the core elements in learning how to read successfully.

- Environmental print – make puzzles and concentration games from box fronts and can labels
- Basketball – using index cards with sight words on them and a plastic cup as the “hoop”, have children draw a card, if they recognize the word, have them place it in the “hoop” for 2 points, if they don’t know the word it is returned to the deck.
- Bingo
- Concentration
- Charade - act out the sight word
- Word bank – children keep a running tab of all the sight words they recognize
- Journal entries – write new sight words every day
- Scrabble – give children letters to make new words
- Sentence makers – use sight words to make sentences
- Predictable sentences – make up predictable sentences using sight words. Remove a word. Ask children to choose the right word to go into the blank space.
- String a word – write letters on large string beads and have children string a word
- Alphabet words – have children match their word bank words to the letters in the alphabet