

## Suggestions from *StoryMakers* Teams on Engaging Families

Having the parents bring their favorite children's book to a parent meeting and taking turns reading their book aloud to the other parents. We will work on storytelling skills, what makes it fun, what things they can use as teaching skills, etc...

We had a Dr. Seuss birthday party complete with Dr. Seuss hats, party favors and lots of reading.

I share Hopa Mountain books with parents and kiddos waiting for immunizations. It's a special bonding time during an "anxious" wait. Positive results!

I would like to introduce the books to parents at home visits and/or parent teacher conferences. This way, an activity can be introduced to coincide with the book so that it has more of a reason and connection to the family; as opposed to just handing them the book with little explanation and interaction.

When starting a conversation about a literacy tip, start by making the parent feel good about what they are already doing. Example: "I see that you were pointing out the pictures in the book you were sharing with your child. That is a great way to help him/her understand the concepts in the book."

We give books that were leftover from last season, as a registration gifts or baby shower gift to introduce them to the program.

I ask the parents for ideas they already use to engage their child in reading. I use my opportunity each day when giving the parent a report of their child's day to include what stories we read that day and what to talk about that night. Share with them which stories they responded to eagerly and let the parent know which early reading skills I have observed in their child's day.

Ask them how old their child or children are and show them the books. Ask them if they would like to participate in a family reading activity.

Start off by asking them a question about their favorite author or book to break the ice and get them thinking about books.

I teach at FPCC, where many of our students are parents and grandparents. I encourage my students to read and interact with their young children on a daily basis when I distribute books. I have also suggested they "role model" reading, studying, shared parent-child reading and homework time for good modeling and bonding.

Figure out a time with the family that can be the reading time, show examples of other parents reading to their kids, and model for the parent with the child with their permission.

Tell a well known story, fairy tale, memory but insert your kids, their friends, pets, and stuffed animals in instead of the usual characters.

I talk to parents when I see them. I invite them to Books and Babies – I don't know how effective this is. Maybe if I keep it up it will be helpful. I try to make a personal connect with the adult and the child – to let them know that they are welcome and respected.

Have a box of books for the child to check-out at each home visit and find a special place in the house to keep the books. Decorate the box to keep the books in and have the kids "sign" for the books they "check out."

For the first home visit, I talk with the parent on the importance of literacy and ways to promote literacy in the home by modeling or giving suggestions.

Have or hand a duplicated outline of a hand divided into irregular sections. Invite child and adult to use diverse patterns to fill in sections. Then tell what they chose and why and how they felt.

Story Maker display and books in learning center and when parents stop by, talk to them about literacy. Also, plan a literacy class for out participants and give out books at orientation and talk about program and literacy.

Compliment based on truth. Be sincere. Compliment based on positive reinforcement.

Do a play with the books for parents to watch and then hand out books for memory.

What is something fun your child likes doing...relate it to one of the books, model, etc...

Turn off the TV and games and read for 30 minutes every day together.

Role play with the child before they leave and open the book to do one of the suggested activities.

I will read one of our books at group events and mimic ways parents can engage their children.