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Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!

“Take the Lead and Read”

The Importance of Early Literacy

Early literacy involves the building of a foundation of developmental skills from birth through early childhood to promote the later development of reading. Research has shown that reading to children and creating interactive experiences with books is the key to a child’s future reading success. These experiences help children develop the brain structures necessary for later language literacy. Reading books to young children is not only one of the best activities to stimulate language and cognitive skills but it also builds motivation for reading along with curiosity and memory.

What can providers and families do to provide early literacy experiences for children?

- Ask your child questions as you read aloud, and talk about the pictures to involve your child in the story
- Talk about the colors, shapes, and different facial expressions he may see
- Provide a fun, verbal, and stimulating atmosphere for the child while reading

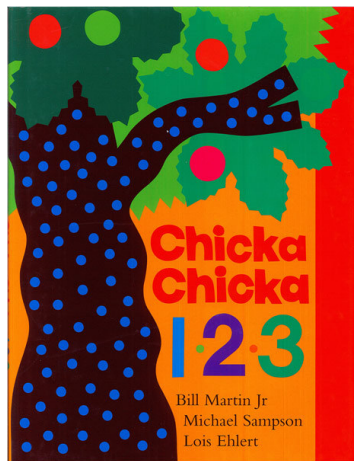
Department of Education’s Just Read, Florida! and the Florida Office of Early Learning are partnering for 2012’s statewide “Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!” on January 23-27. Please join us in kicking off this event by encouraging your providers to participate in our Million Minute Marathon and Simultaneous Reading activities.

Calendar of Events

Million Minute Marathon, January 23, 2012: We are encouraging all early learning providers across the state to read many books to children in their classroom and record how many minutes they read each day. On Friday, January 27, 2012 early learning providers will report to their local early learning coalition their total minutes from the week. Once we have received all of the reported time from each early learning coalition we will then send a certificate of recognition to the top 3 early learning providers in each county.

Simultaneous Reading Activity, January 25, 2012: On Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. (EST), we are encouraging all early learning providers to participate in our simultaneous reading activity. The book we selected for this year is *Chicka Chicka 1 2 3* by: Bill Martin Jr. and Michael Sampson followed up with extension activities. Please encourage all providers to read the designated book to the children in their classrooms Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. (EST). Also encourage your providers to implement the suggested expansion activities printed on the back of this notice.





Chicka Chicka 1 2 3

By: Bill Martin Jr. & Michael Sampson

Illustrated By: Lois Ehlert

Extension Activities

Motor skills

Create numbers in play dough using number cookie cutters or just children's own hands and creativity. Have large written copies of the numbers for children to mold their play dough on.

Dramatic Play/Social & Emotional/Science/Physical Activity

Have children pretend to be busy bees. Have them buzz around the room. Allow children to take turns being queen and designate a "apple tree" area for bees to rest. Or create a large apple tree on the classroom door or wall, have kids draw, paint, and cut out apples, leaves, numbers, and bees to glue onto the tree. They can also practice writing their names by writing their name on their apple.

Language & Communication/Social & Emotional

Talk about how scared the numbers feel when the bees come and demand they leave the tree. Discuss how "zero" feels, i.e. out of place, scared, alone. Talk about the outcome of the story, how "zero" helps the other numbers and how happy they are to have their tree back.

Social & Emotional

Create a bulletin board with apple tree titled, "Chicka Chicka 123, look who is special to me!" have children bring in pictures of a family member or someone special to put on the board. Have each child talk about their picture and why that person is special to them.

Cognitive

Create apple tree memory. Create apple "playing cards" where each apple looks the same on one side, but put two of each different numbers and several pairs of identical bees on the opposite side. Have children lay out the apples number-side/bee-side down and take turns flipping over two cards at a time to find the match like memory.

Language & Communication

Sing the baby bumble bee song and do the finger play that goes along with it.

(cup hands) I'm bringing home my baby bumblebee

Won't my mommy be so proud of me

I'm bringing home my baby bumble bee

Ouch! It stung me!

(squash up imaginary bee with hands) I'm squashing up my baby bumblebee

Won't my mommy be so proud of me

I'm squashing up my baby bumblebee

EEEW! Yuck!

(wash off imaginary bee with hands) I'm washing off my baby bumblebee

Won't my mommy be so proud of me

I'm washing off my baby bumblebee

Look! All gone!



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