



Shared Reading

What is it?

Shared reading is an apprenticeship method. The teacher reads with the children and the children actively contribute to the reading with the teacher's guidance. It allows children to learn important concepts about reading and to practice effective strategies in a group assisted activity.

Why should I do it?

As the teacher shares an enlarged text with a small group of children, she creates instructional conversations that guide the children to apply their knowledge and strategies to the reading situation.

The purpose of shared reading is to:

- Show features of language such as structure, rhyme, rhythm and alliteration.
- Teach concepts about print such as directionality, spatial concepts, punctuation, words and letters.
- Extend individual word knowledge
- Teach reading strategies such as predicting, locating, checking, confirming, and self-correcting at the levels of letter, word and text.
- Teach information skills such as title, author, illustrator, etc.
- Promote fluency.

Choosing the right text

It is very important to choose the right text for shared reading. It needs to provide a supportive context that helps young children learn about the reading process. Good examples of shared reading for young children are:

- Big books
- Poems on charts, sentence strips or transparencies.
- Enlarged texts of rhyming stories
- Nursery rhyme charts
- Raps or favorite songs on charts
- Wall stories
- Alphabet chart

Materials for Shared Reading

- Pointers
- Focus frame cards
- Chart stand
- Pocket charts
- Word cards/ sentence strips
- Highlighter tape/ plastic highlighter cards/ highlighter paddles
- Sticky notes
- Focus windows
- Enlarged text
- Overhead project/ transparencies