



Charting the Cs
Conference 2025:
*To Literacy and
Beyond*

Cooperation
Communication
Collaboration

I completed the READ ACT Training: Now What?

Supporting Early Literacy Development in Young Learners

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Agenda- What to Expect

- Key Principles of LETRS
- Effective Classroom Practices for Early Literacy
- Predictors of Literacy Achievement
- Moving beyond “The Letter of the Week”
- The Power of Play- Literacy Examples
- “Real Life” Examples of Literacy Strategies
- Incidental Literacy- “Literacy on the Fly”
- Print Rich Environment

What is LETRS?

- LETRS stands for Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling.
- It provides evidence-based strategies for teaching reading, writing, and spelling in early childhood.
- The program emphasizes understanding the structure of language, its impact on literacy, and how teachers can support young learners.

Key Principles of LETRS

1. **Phonemic Awareness:** Understanding that words are made up of individual sounds.
2. **Phonics:** Teaching the relationship between sounds and letters.
3. **Vocabulary Development:** Expanding children's word knowledge.
4. **Fluency:** Helping children read smoothly and with expression.
5. **Comprehension:** Ensuring children understand what they read.

Key Principles of LETRS, cont.

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Phonemic Awareness

- **What is Phonemic Awareness?**
 - The ability to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words.
- **Key Strategies:**
 - Rhyming games
 - Segmenting and blending sounds
 - Sound matching activities
- **Why is it Important?**
 - A strong predictor of future reading success.
 - Helps children decode words when they learn to read.

Phonics Instruction

- **What is Phonics?**
 - Phonics is the understanding that letters and groups of letters represent sounds in spoken words.
- **Key Strategies:**
 - Systematic and explicit instruction of letter-sound correspondences.
 - Letter recognition and blending sounds into words.
 - Practice with decodable texts.
- **Why is it Important?**
 - Helps children decode and spell words.
 - Provides the foundation for fluent reading.

Vocabulary Development

- **What is Vocabulary Development?**
 - The process of teaching children the meaning of words and how to use them in context.
- **Key Strategies:**
 - Read aloud to children regularly.
 - Use rich and varied language in conversations.
 - Teach the meanings of new words in context.
- **Why is it Important?**
 - A robust vocabulary is linked to better reading comprehension and writing skills.
 - Supports cognitive development and communication.

Fluency

- **What is Fluency?**
 - The ability to read text smoothly and with expression, which helps with comprehension.
- **Key Strategies:**
 - Practice reading aloud regularly.
 - Focus on expression, intonation, and punctuation.
 - Use repeated reading of familiar texts.
- **Why is it Important?**
 - Fluency allows children to focus on understanding the text rather than decoding individual words.
 - Builds confidence in young readers.

Comprehension

- **What is Comprehension?**
 - Comprehension is the ability to understand and interpret what is being read.
- **Key Strategies:**
 - Ask questions before, during, and after reading.
 - Use graphic organizers to visualize key concepts.
 - Encourage children to retell stories in their own words.
- **Why is it Important?**
 - Reading comprehension is the ultimate goal of literacy instruction.
 - Helps children make connections between what they read and their own experiences.

Effective Classroom Practices for Early Literacy

Structured Literacy Approach:

- Provide explicit, systematic, and sequential instruction in language components.

Interactive and Engaging Activities:

- Use songs, games, and hands-on learning experiences to support literacy skills.

Differentiation:

- Tailor instruction to meet the individual needs of learners.

Predictors of Literacy Achievement

- The **TWO** best predictors of literacy achievement from early kindergarten to 2nd grade are:
- **Phoneme awareness** (sound isolation)
- **Letter-name knowledge**
 - *(National Reading Panel, 2000; Whitehurst & Lonigan, 2002; National Early Literacy Panel, 2008)*

Predictors of Literacy Achievement, cont.

Optimal Benchmark at Pre-K to Kindergarten is:

- 18 Uppercase Letter Names
- 15 Lowercase letter names

Moving beyond “The Letter of the Week”

- Provide a variety of writing surfaces, such as clipboards and personal dry-erase boards, that children can take anywhere, even outside. Model writing for authentic purposes every day.
- Help children create monthly class books about topics that interest them—from their families to their favorite foods, animals, or toys. They can also create books about letters, numbers, and their favorite words.

Moving beyond “The Letter of the Week”, cont.

- Remember that literacy is everywhere.
- Children love writing with interesting-colored pens and markers, so provide writing utensils in many different colors, sizes, and even scents or shapes. Not only are they fun to use, but the smooth, fluid feeling of using pens and markers encourages writing.

The Power of Play

“Playful learning” helps children make important connections, deepening their background knowledge.

- A key point is that adult intentionality and interaction makes an important difference in young children’s learning

An important consideration:

- How can I include literacy in play-based learning?
- How can I support literacy development through play props, materials, or activities?

Literacy Strategies

1. Picture Story/Word Story
2. Read-a-Louds
3. Phonemic and Letter Awareness
4. Writing
5. Literacy during Routines

Picture Story/Word Story

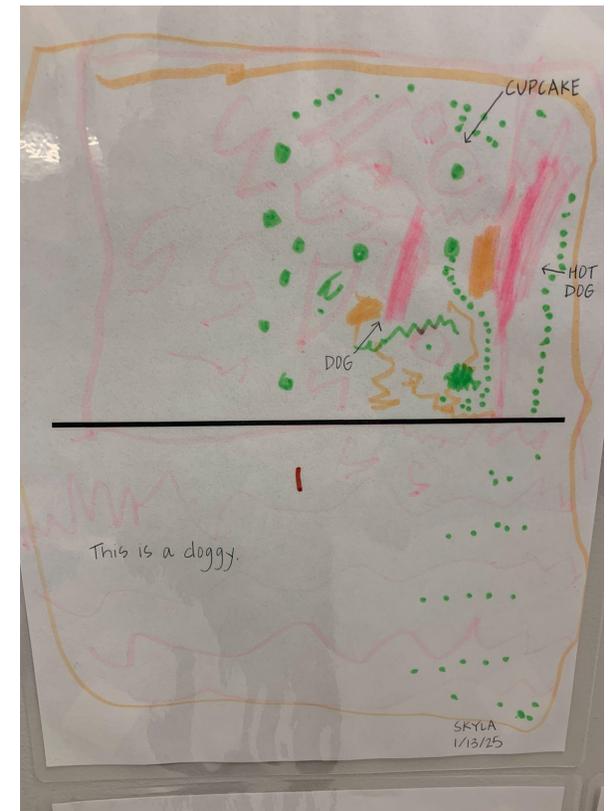
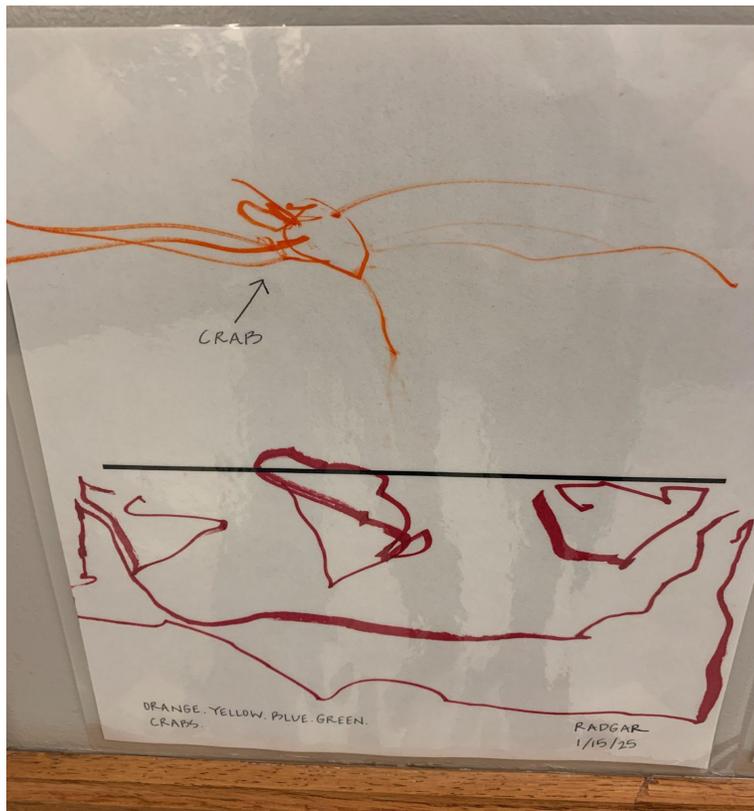
***Helps children feel comfortable writing at their own level and reinforces that they are not expected to write like grown ups.** Think about how many opportunities children have to write within your classroom/day. Intentionally guide in the process of what to write, how to get it on paper, identifying letters to sounds, letter formation, and pencil grip. Model/scaffold. (Two phases above)

- There are other ways you can present this strategy that doesn't involve whole group instruction. Ex: Small group and teacher/child activity.
- Journals are a great way to implement this strategy.
- Provide writing opportunities (art/literacy, dramatic play; Grocery list)
- Large chart for question of the day and discussion.

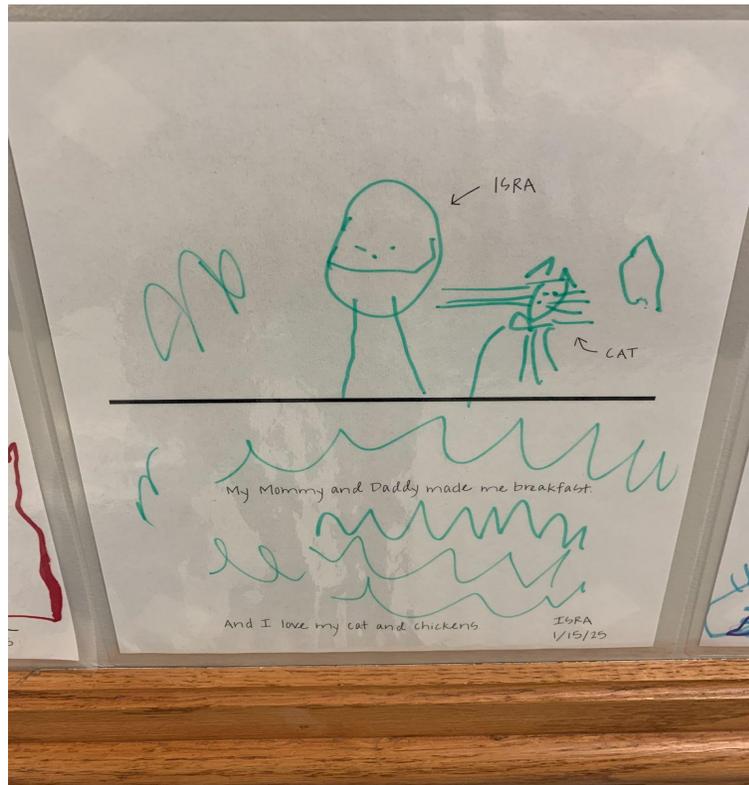
Picture Story/Word Story, cont.



Student Example



Student Example, cont.

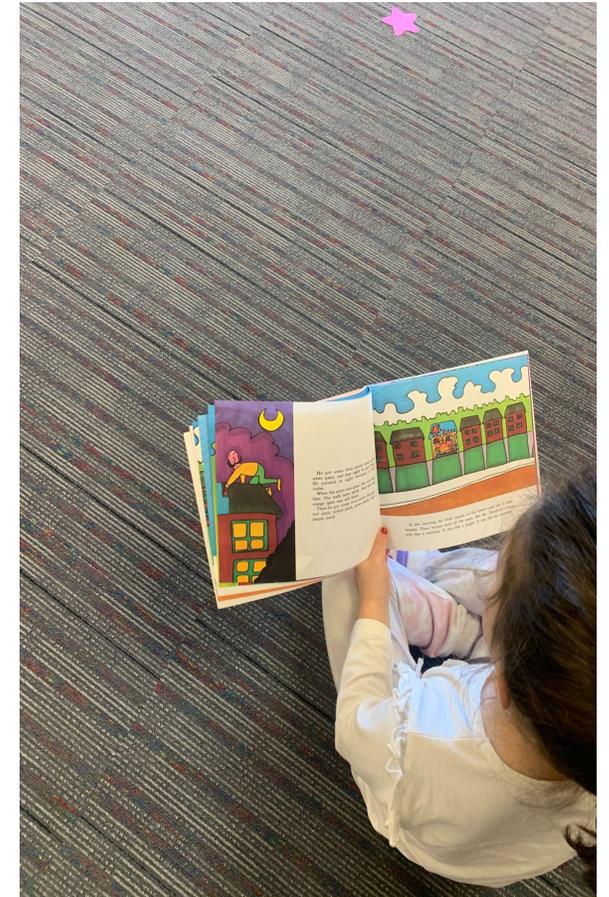


Read-A- Louds

Read A Loud:

- Repeated Reading Plan- How to implement- Pg. 80* -84
- Intentional plan for repeated reading
- Fun ways to do read alouds: Wear fun reading glasses! There is value in creating excitement about read aloud!
- Interactive Story book routines
- Extension activity: Story Walk
- Book Discussion Cards for Creative Curriculum

Read-A-Loud Modifications and Accessibility





Using Props to Boost Engagement

Phonemic Awareness

Initial Sound Activity



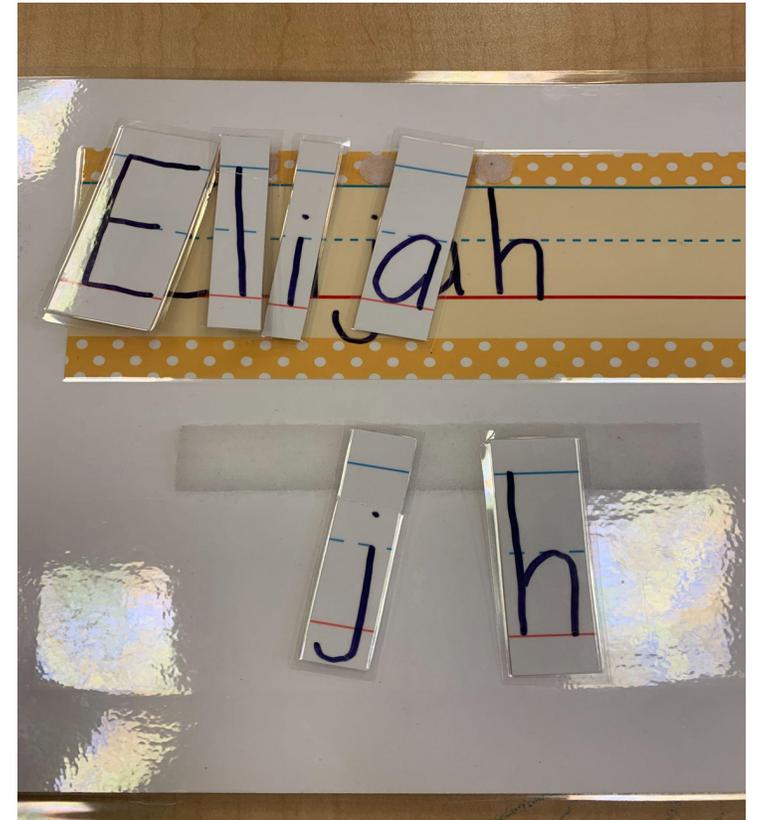
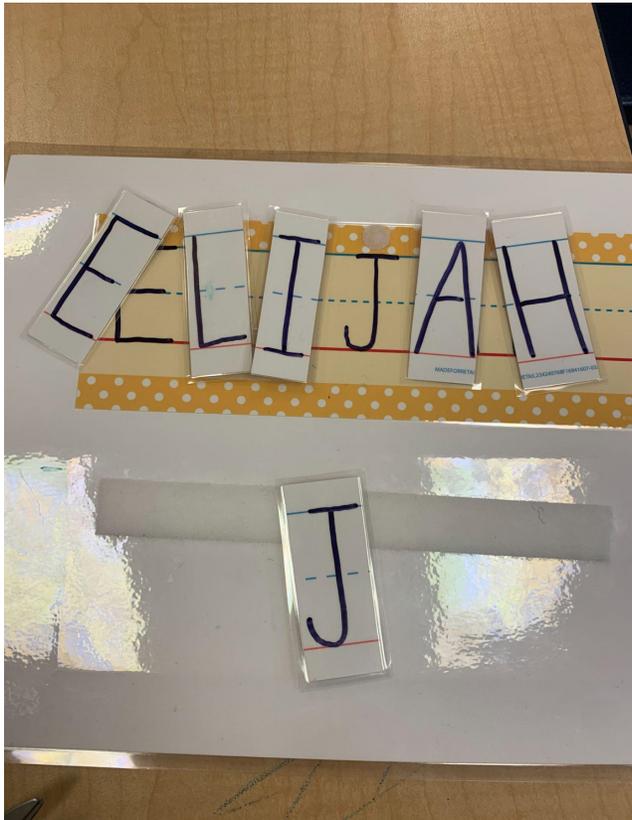
Mystery bag: Letter Matching





Letter Awareness

Independent Work: Letter Matching



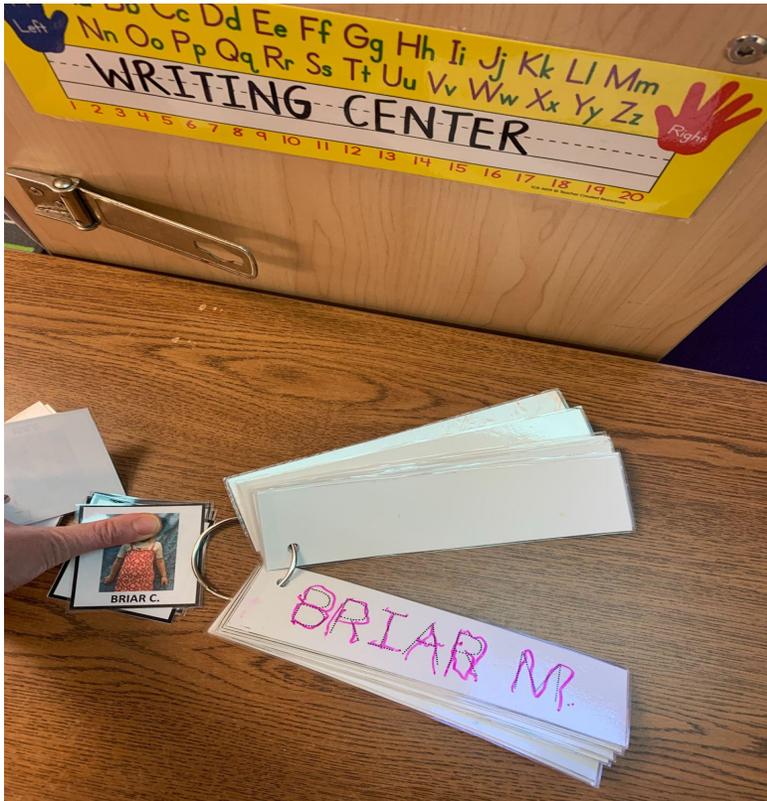
Letter in First Name Activity: Corresponds to Creative Curriculum





Writing

Letter Writing: Symbols, Identifying Shapes



Rhyming Activities

Rhyming Words/Picture Match

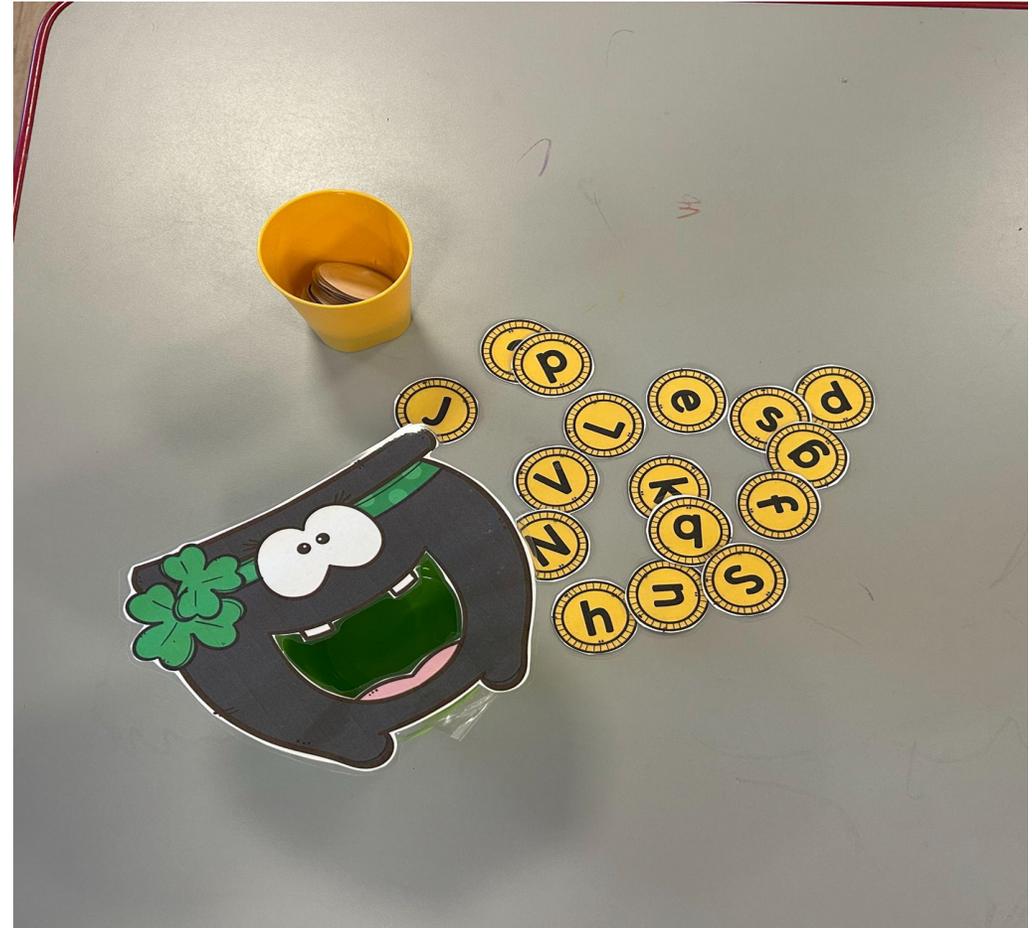


Down by the Bay: Rhyming Song

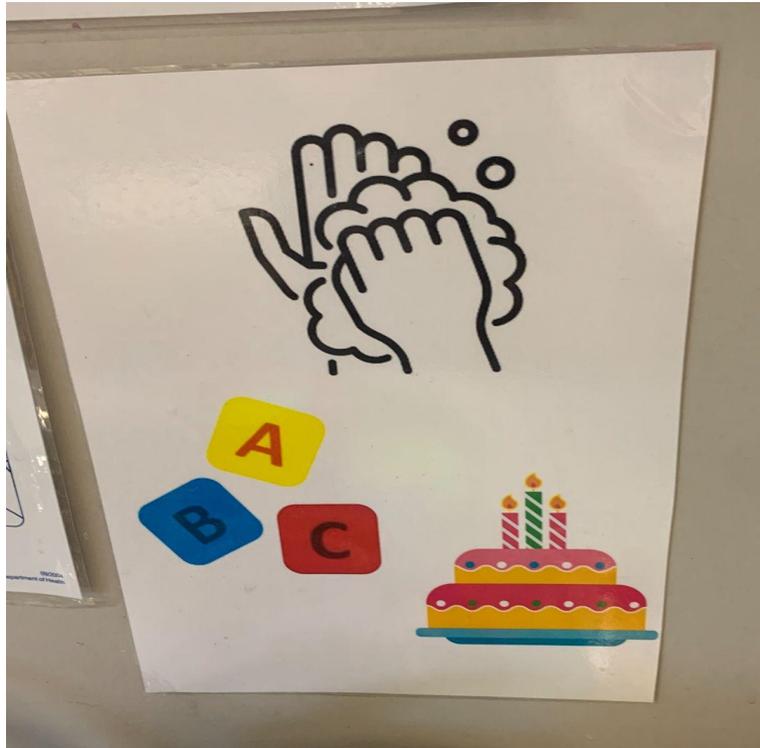


Literacy During Routines

Letter sound transition
activity



Literacy during routines and snack

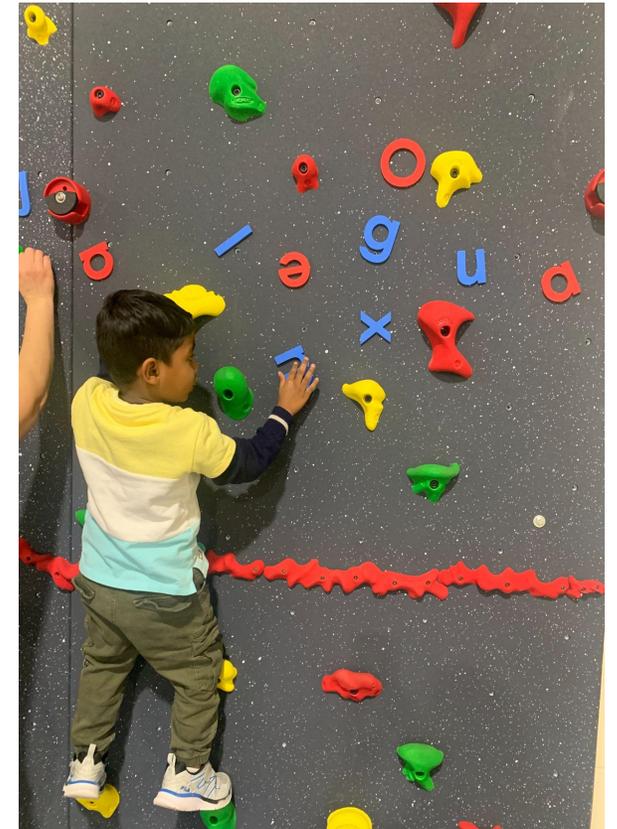


Incidental Literacy Teaching

How can you increase incidental learning opportunities?

- Songs- letter and letter sound songs
- Interactive Stories during non-traditional times

Using Literacy in Non Traditional Spaces



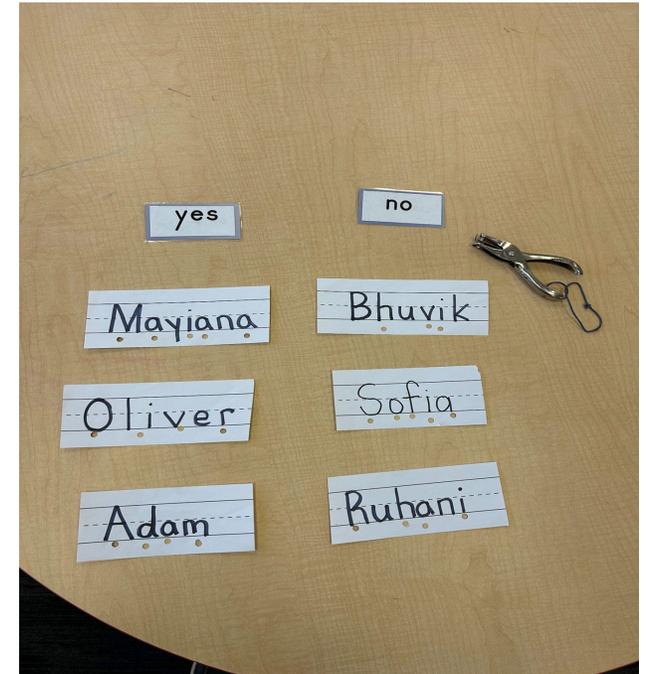
Name-Letter Recognition



Alphabet animal vocabulary



First letter name recognition



Name letter recognition/intentional letter instruction

Print Rich Environment Examples

- Story Walks
- Dramatic Play Props
 - Menus
 - Phone books
 - Cookbooks
 - Other
- Literacy/Reading during Transitions
 - iPad storys/songs/rhymes
 - Checklists for pictures/letter searches in hallway
- Playground Print
 - Scavenger hunts
 - Picture/Letter Search Games

Share out

- Link- to Google Folder with shared ideas
- How are you implementing LETRS or Literacy Strategies?
- What barriers are you experiencing?
- What is the most challenging routine to incorporate literacy?
- What Ah-Ha take away will you try to implement this year?

ECSE Literacy Ideas

Please share your email address and I will give you access to this drive!

[ECSE Literacy](#)



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Thank you!

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