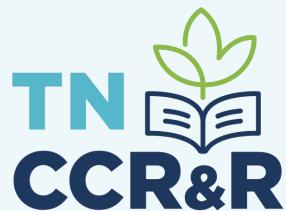
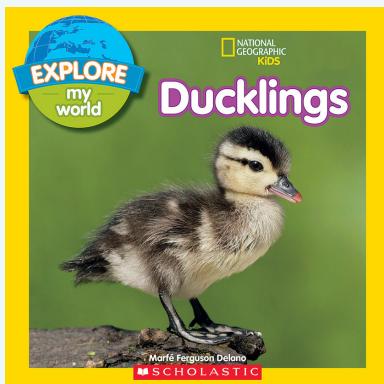


Early Literacy Activities for Educators



Setting the Stage for Your Read Aloud



Ducklings

Written by Marfé Ferguson Delano

The engaging Explore My World picture books invite kids to take their first big steps toward understanding the world around them. In Explore My World Ducklings, extraordinary nature photos show the challenges and victories of a wood duck as he hatches and grows.

For Preschool Ages

- Remember to set up your environment for your read-aloud.
- The focus of the initial read-aloud is for children to enjoy a good story.

- Use give and take interactions to promote language development.
- Have fun! Children enjoy books when you enjoy them.

Promoting Language and Early Literacy

Emphasize the following words or phrases by pointing to the word, acting out the word, and telling the children more about the word.

- Duck
- Peck
- Waddle
- Nest
- Fly
- Beak

Suggested questions to ask the children during your read-aloud:

- Can you describe how a wood duck looks?
- What does it look like to waddle? Could you show me?
- Are there other animals that come out of an egg? Tell me.
- Can you remember what season the males become as colorful as a box of crayons? It's really hot outside.

While children are answering questions, notice the following reading foundational skills:

37-48 months:

- With prompting and support, younger preschool children realize that print conveys a message and is read. Children begin to look at and comment about the words on the page as much as the pictures.

4-5 years:

- With prompting and support, older preschool children listen and respond to informational texts of appropriate complexity for pre-k.



Literacy Around The Room



Incorporate Ducklings into other parts of your day!



Transition

As children move from one activity to the next, encourage children to *waddle* or *fly* like a wood duckling! As children are moving, provide positive feedback. Here are some other phrases to use other than *Good job!*: *Amazing!* *Keep it up!* *You got it!* *Right on!*

Life Science

Describing similarities and differences between living things provides opportunities to practice oral language skills.

- Look at images in the book.
- Discuss common attributes incorporating the five senses: see, hear, taste, touch, and sound.

Providing modeling, guidance, and support, notice the following:

- Younger preschool children begin to describe and identify the physical similarities between animals. Children observe and describe characteristics between animals and plants.
- Older preschool children identify common attributes of people, things, and animals. Children describe characters and recognize the differences between living and non-living materials.

Art

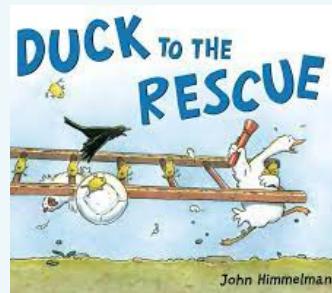
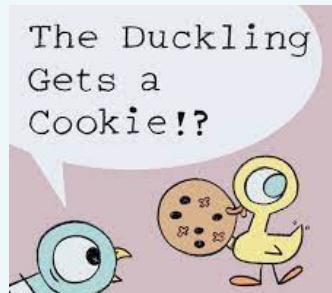
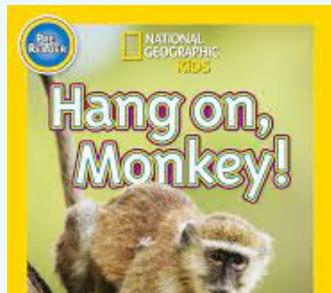
Creating artwork provides opportunities for small muscle groups to strengthen.

- Bring a model of a wood duck into the classroom.
- Have writing tools of various sizes and art materials such as playdough or clay for children to choose what's best for them.
- Encourage children to draw a wood duck or mold a wood duck out of play dough or clay.
- Discuss details of the wood duck to add to their drawings. For example, *their beak is pointy*.

Providing modeling, guidance, and support, notice the following:

- Younger preschool children demonstrate increased control of hands. Children easily grasp writing tools or shape play dough.
- Older preschool children demonstrate increasing strength and dexterity in small muscles groups. Children use language to describe artwork created by themselves and others.

Did your children enjoy this interactive read? Other books to check out!



"When a teacher reads aloud, it is a bonding between the teacher, the children, the books, and the act of reading."

-Lester L. Laminack