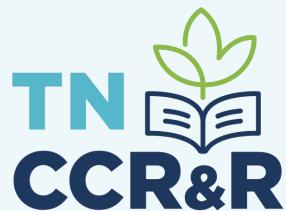


Early Literacy Activities for Educators



Setting the Stage for Your Read Aloud



Honey Bees

Written by Jill Esbaum

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 Honey Bees, these bustling buzzers work really hard and play an important role in maintaining ecosystems.

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.

- Honeybee
- Buzzing
- Pollen
- Nectar
- Queen
- Beekeeper

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

- How does a bee sound? Let me hear you.
- Where does the bee find nectar and pollen?
- Tell me about the new bee's first job. Do you like cleaning your room?
- What does the beekeeper do?



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 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 Honey Bees into other parts of your day!



Transition

As children move from one activity to the next, encourage children to *buzz* like a honeybee! As children are moving, provide positive feedback. Here are some other phrases to use other than *Good job!*: *Terrific!* *That's it!* *You've got it now!* *Lovely!*

Creative Arts

Honeycombs, which make up the beehive, are a six-sided shape called a hexagon. Build a classroom hive to reinforce a sense of community in the classroom.

- Place a large hexagon cutout on the wall.
- Encourage the children to write their names and decorate their own hexagon with support and guidance. Provide the name for children to trace and practice a pre-writing skill.
- Encourage children to cut and glue the hexagon shape on the larger hexagon with guidance and supervision.

As you watch children participate, notice the following:

- Younger preschool children begin to work more independently and add details to artwork. Children experiment with scissors but need support and supervision from you.
- Older preschool children create artwork with intent and purpose. With supervision, children demonstrate growing control of the scissors with greater precision.

Math

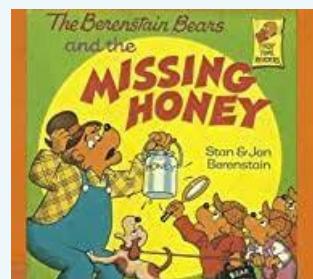
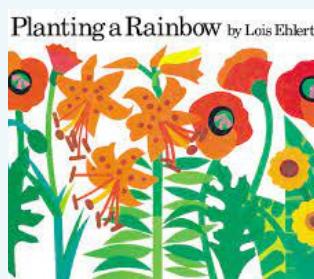
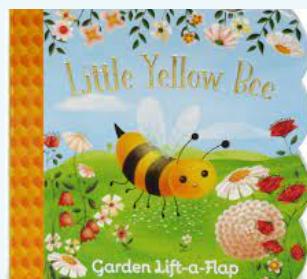
Identifying and describing shapes is foundational for math and literacy learning.

- Have a variety of shapes in various sizes. Suggestions include circles, squares, triangles, hexagons, cubes, and cones.
- Encourage children to explore the shapes and sort shapes by similarities.
- Discuss details of each shape and find objects in the classroom with similar shapes.

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

- Younger preschool children explore and begin to sort and classify using trial and error.
- Older preschool children identify and describe the shapes. Children can correctly name some shapes and describe objects in the classroom using the shape's name.

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