

Early Language and Literacy

<https://www.easternct.edu/center-for-early-childhood-education/reflections-from-the-field/building-vocabulary-in-the-preschool-classroom.html>

Teacher Ideas

General

- Classroom labels, a print-rich environment.
- Books in all areas of the room (fiction and non-fiction) and magazines.
- Writing Area (paper, envelopes writing implements, Wiki Sticks).
- Dramatic Play (Post Office, Restaurant, Supermarket). Add mail, menus, shopping lists, and labels. Children can help make signs and labels.
- Tagboard and blank paper (one per child) with markers on some field trips for children to record anything they wish to draw/write.
- Choosing books for shared reading based on teachable opportunities: Rhyming books, books with a story arc, alphabet books, non-fiction, etc.

Oral Language

- Encourage children to share their ideas, feelings and observations.
- Expand on children's responses, connect what they are doing to their daily lives and other experiences, introduce new vocabulary.
- Take dictation of stories. Children dictate captions for artwork.
- Show children an illustration and ask them to tell the story of what they see.
- Have children tell the story of a wordless book like "Good-night Gorilla"
- Ask children to make predictions during play or what might happen in a story.
- Pose open-ended questions.

Phonological Awareness

- Clap out the "beats" syllables in children's names and in other words.
- Rhyming books, songs, fingerplays and poems - leave out rhyming words so children can fill in or invite them to join in.
- Change beginning sounds in familiar songs and fingerplays like: "Willoughby Wallaby Woo".
- Patty-Cake using the first letters of the children's name. Mark it with a "L" for Lisa and me.
- Sorting objects by beginning sounds.
- Choose a word that is familiar such as children's names. Together, think of words that begin with the same sound. For example, "Sarah sings."

Alphabet Knowledge

- Alphabet puzzles, games and books.
- Point out letter shapes that can be made with playdough
- Magnet letters with cookie sheets or in the sensory table.



- Identify letters written on large surfaces with a fly swatter or pointer.
- Graphing the first letters of children's names.
- Use children's name cards for comparing letters and for matching games.
- A class dictionary with just the children's name. Add words that are meaningful to the children.

Early Writing/Concepts about Print

- Environmental print (cubby labels, helper board, room labels, schedules).
- A sign-in sheet if children would like to write their names in the morning. We tell families that it's OK if they are not legible to us.
- Short recipes with text and pictures for cooking activities.
- Familiarize children with the parts of a book: Front, back, author and illustrator
- Scavenger hunt to look for matching words or pictures
- Model writing for a purpose. We write a short message and have children "read" it with us then tell us what they see. We take that paper to the writing center so they can write on it themselves.
- Words on sentence strips related to a theme .
- Children make pages for class books based on favorite stories.
- Journal time before lunch. Children can do anything they want in these journals.
- Journals outdoors in a basket with markers.
- Sidewalk chalk outdoors

Vocabulary and Comprehension

- Listening center with headsets and books for listening and comprehension.
- Picture walk before a shared reading. Children can predict what the story might be about. Go over new vocabulary before a shared reading.
- Simple song for dressing for outside. "Snowpants, boots, jackets, hats, put your mittens on last." Sung to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.
- Acting out stories with props (Three Billy Goats Gruff in the block area) and with felt pieces and puppets.
- Cards with illustrations from a book for retelling/sequencing the story.
- Brainstorm webs and K-W-L charts - What we know , What we want to know, What we learned for a theme or field trip.
- Invite children to change endings to stories you read.
- Open-ended artwork using materials used in a read-aloud book.