

# Interactive Reading



Increasing Early Learning  
Opportunities  
Training Module

Lunch and Learn  
At Families First Resource Center  
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Interactive book reading

is a

**STYLE**

of storytelling

# Involves 3 Main components

- The use of concrete objects to represent parts or words in the story
- Opportunities for children to use the words they hear in a story
- The use of open-ended questions to engage children to talk during storytelling

(“Beyond the pages of a book: Interactive Book Reading and Language Development in Preschool Classrooms”, B. Wasik and M. Bond, *Journal of Educational Psychology*, Volume 93, Number 2, 2001.)

# How to Make Reading Interactive

## Use concrete objects

- Representing Story Vocabulary
- Representing Story Characters
- Associated with Parts of the Story  
colored objects

# How to Make Reading Interactive

Provide opportunities

for children to use the words they hear  
in a story

- Reinforce vocabulary in play and daily routines
- Provide Extension Activities
- Add pieces of information to what they already know

which will generate new understandings

# How to Make Reading Interactive

## Use open-ended questions

- Make statements then ask children to describe
  - what they are doing, what they think, what they see, what they need, why they did something, how they created
- Validate and reinforce children's ideas and responses
- Use concepts and describing words
- The presentation of questions will need to be adapted for younger children and children with lower language abilities
  - Provide choices in questions
  - Ask children to identify or point to objects, actions, or people

# Add your own **STYLE**

- Find your voice and use it
- Be animated
- Emphasize & Exaggerate words, actions, emotions
- Elaborate points of interest
- Make it an enjoyable experience

“A teacher’s reading style has an impact on children’s comprehension of stories,” (Roser & Martinez, 1985)

# What an engaging experience looks like

The following information was adapted from:

Literacy: The Creative Curriculum Approach, Heroman, C. and Jones, C.,  
Teaching Strategies, 2004)

# Before Reading

Activate Prior Knowledge

Introduce the story by associating the topic to

familiar experiences/vocabulary/stories

Preview the story

Take a picture walk

Make Predictions

What the story is about

What might happen

Use Questions to encourage interest

Ask personal questions to level of each child

# During Reading

Use concrete props

Directly related to the story

Maintain limits of behavior and interactions

Emphasize turn taking

Listening and Participating

Use open-ended questions

Make connections to things they already  
know

Make Inferences and Predictions

Why do you think ...?

What will happen next?

Encourage children to ask questions

Rephrase words when needed to help children  
understand the content

Talk about the pictures

# After Reading

Review the sequence of the story

Create opportunities for children to use the words they hear in a story

Carry “lessons” of the story over into play

Encourage related activities to the story in play centers

Mentally Self-Evaluate the Experience

Were the children engaged?

Did they learn something new?

Was it an enjoyable experience?

Facilitate Story Retellings

If the children are **ENGAGED**-  
it is **INTERACTIVE**

## Engaged Children Will...

Attend to a story

Be enthusiastic about new topics

Learn new vocabulary

Comprehend Stories

Follow directions

Enjoy Story Time

and

Ultimately, **develop a love for  
reading!**