

Hello Teachers!



As you know, young children love good storybooks. If the books are especially good, children ask to hear them again and again until they've worn out the pages and learned the words by heart. We've created a curriculum for preschool settings that builds on this natural love by structuring activities around 17 favorite storybooks. The storybooks serve as the core of the instruction and provide the themes for all the activities. An added benefit of this curriculum is that it clearly communicates that books have a special value. By modeling the importance and joy of literature for the children, we see that they develop an appreciation for books—an appreciation we hope will follow them for the rest of their lives.

Who is this book for?

The curriculum presented in this book is designed for early childhood educators, speech-language pathologists, daycare workers, and others who teach children ages three to six. It is appropriate for community preschools as well as early childhood special education settings. We've used this storybook-based curriculum to teach children with a wide spectrum of disabilities as well as typically developing children. You will find the activities can easily be adapted to your group of children.

How does it work?

This curriculum includes enough storybooks and activities to fill an entire academic year, from September through May. Each unit focuses on one storybook and provides corresponding activities to last two weeks. We've put the units in an order that will work for most settings, with seasonal and holiday-related units occurring at the appropriate times. Teachers are welcome either to follow the units in order or to pick and choose units or activities as suitable for the needs of your children, your geographic location, the children's interests, and your special skills as a teacher.

For each unit, the teacher reads the storybook each class session over the period of two weeks. Circle time activities enhance the story reading and focus the children's attention on various aspects of the story. Group activities are based on the story's themes, with each of the two weeks having a different focus. And all the songs, poems, art activities, games, room decorations, snacks, and areas in the classroom (dramatic play, sensory, science, art, and books) relate to the story. This immersion allows the children to truly live the story in their classroom for two weeks.

Hello Families,

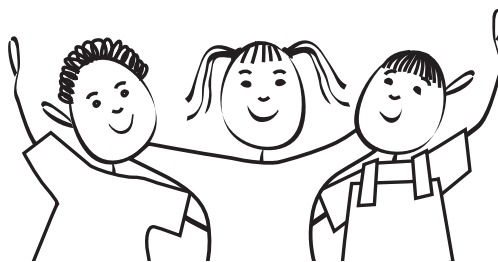
Welcome to what is certain to be a fun and exciting school year. We have a year full of activities planned to spark creativity, playfulness, and a love of learning in your children. Our curriculum is a bit different from most, so we'd like to explain the framework through which we will be teaching this year.

We have selected 17 of our favorite children's storybooks as the basis of our instruction. These are enticing stories with captivating characters, vibrant illustrations, and interesting vocabulary. We'll spend two weeks focusing on each story and all the wonder that lies within it. We will read the story every day of the two-week period, emphasizing different topics during the first and second weeks. We will incorporate puppets, props, music, and other delights to help illustrate key concepts and hold the children's attention. All aspects of our classroom activities and environment will relate to our chosen story—art projects, dramatic play, games, room decorations, even our snacks! Based on our past experience, we predict that by the end of the second week, the children will know the story by heart, they will have learned the concepts and new vocabulary within it, and they will have added it to their personal memory bank—and perhaps home library—of all-time favorite stories.

Every two weeks, we will send home a letter telling you about our new storybook and how we will be spending our time in preschool. We will offer suggestions for activities you can do at home with your child to reinforce what we are doing at school and let you know about other related storybooks to look for at the library. Of course, we offer only suggestions and would love to hear about any activities you create at home that capture your child's interest.

Our goal is to build preliteracy skills and instill in the children a love of books and reading that will last a lifetime. We hope that you will join us in our goal by searching out the storybooks at the library and reading them at home with your child. Indulge your child's request to have the same stories read repeatedly. This repetition is a valuable way to build important prereading skills and an enjoyment of stories. A list of all the storybooks along with their authors and areas of focus is attached.

Thank you for sharing your children with us. We look forward to a wonderful school year.





Storybooks and Focus Areas

Title and Author	Focus Area	
	Week 1	Week 2
<i>There Was a Bold Lady Who Wanted a Star</i> (Charise Mericle Harper)	Transportation	Space and stars
<i>Silly Sally</i> (Audrey Wood)	Silly movement	Silly art
<i>My Little Sister Ate One Hare</i> (Bill Grossman)	Counting	Insects and other critters
<i>Go Away, Big Green Monster!</i> (Ed Emberley)	Monsters and emotions	Shapes
<i>Barn Dance!</i> (Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault)	Farm animals	Dancing, movement, and verbs
<i>I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie</i> (Alison Jackson)	Thanksgiving food and turkeys	Harvest and fall season
<i>Gingerbread Baby</i> (Jan Brett)	Gingerbread	Cold weather
<i>Geraldine's Big Snow</i> (Holly Keller)	Winter weather and winter clothing	Waiting and being patient, getting ready for snow
<i>Bear Snores On</i> (Karma Wilson)	Habitats and snow	Cold weather cooking
<i>The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry and the Big Hungry Bear</i> (Don and Audrey Wood)	Strawberries, emotions, and a half	Prepositions, and problem solving
<i>The Kissing Hand</i> (Audrey Penn)	Love, hearts, and kisses	Hands and forest animals
<i>Pete's a Pizza</i> (William Steig)	Making a pizza	More pizza
<i>The Napping House</i> (Audrey Wood)	Rainbows	Napping
<i>Five Little Monkeys Bake a Birthday Cake</i> (Eileen Christelow)	Sleeping, noisy and quiet	Birthday parties
<i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i> (Eric Carle)	Caterpillars and fruits	Butterflies and metamorphosis
<i>Grow Flower, Grow!</i> (Lisa Bruce)	Growing and seeds	Flowers
<i>Fidgety Fish</i> (Ruth Galloway)	Sea life	Movement