Early Literacy: How Children Learn Language Participant Guide

READING PLAN-		
Book Title:	Date:	
Does this book:	Notes:	
have a predictable text?		
• tell a good story?		
• convey information?		
• have an enjoyable rhythm?		
• use repetition?		
• challenge or stimulate the children's thinking?		
have an interesting plot?		

 have a concrete beginning, middle, and ending? 	
• depict experiences relevant to the children's	
daily lives?	
• have realistic photographs and illustrations?	
• relate to our current topic of study?	
• take 5–10 minutes to read aloud?	
• meet the children's comprehension levels?	
meet the children's developmental levels?	
Supporting Materials	
•	
What actions and props can I use to aid the	
children's comprehension?	
Summary	
What main ideas (3–6) from the book do I want	
the children to understand and enjoy?	

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Vocabulary	
What vocabulary words (6–12) do I want to teach	
from this book?	
Repeated Readings (3–5 per week)	
When will I read the book?	
Will I read it to one large group or two half	
groups?	
Oral Language Skills	
What are 3 activities related to the story to be	
done at other times of the day so the children can	
practice conversation?	
Family Involvement	
What are 1–3 activities I will use for the school-	
home link?	
Evaluation	
How did it go? How did the children react? What	
did they learn? How did the parents react?	

READING PLAN- EXAMPLE		
Book Title: The Little Red Hen	Date: 2/29/2012	
Does this book:	Notes:	
have a predictable text?	Yes, through repetition: "Not I, she said."	
• tell a good story?	Yes.	
• convey information?	About making flour with wheat and making bread with flour. About feelings, and hard work.	
	Yes	
	Yes, repetition, the children can chime in.	
have an enjoyable rhythm?	Yes, helping vs. not helping friends	
• use repetition?	Yes, not know until the end what the little red hen will do	
	Consequences when we don't help	
challenge or stimulate the children's thinking?	Yes	
have an interesting plot?		
have a concrete beginning, middle, and ending?	Yes	

depict experiences relevant to the children's	Illustrations: realistic animals, bread, stove
daily lives?	
have realistic photographs and illustrations?	Breads of the world. We are learning about breads from the different countries the children's families come from. This story shows how to make bread. In addition, we are
relate to our current topic of study?	exploring the idea of friendship and helping each other in our classroom. We will reenact the story next week, with
• take 5–10 minutes to read aloud?	both themes. We will be making bread in the classroom with parent volunteers.
meet the children's comprehension levels?	Not on the first day. Will learn vocabulary each day. See below.
meet the children's developmental levels?	Yes
Supporting Materials	Point to realistic pictures in the book
What actions and props can I use to aid the	Show a real loaf of bread
children's comprehension?	Show stove and oven in dramatic play
	Shake head and finger for "Not I"
	Excited face and nod head for "I will"
Summary	1. The little red hen works hard and enjoys the fruit
What main ideas (3–6) from the book do I want	of her labor
·	2. How to make bread
the children to understand and enjoy?	3. How friends need to help each other so they can
	enjoy life together too
Vocabulary	Day 1: Hen, goose, bread (already know cat and dog) Day 2: Wheat, grow, flour
What vocabulary words (6–12) do I want to teach	Day 3: Cut, wheelbarrow, oven
from this book?	Day 4: Thresh, bake, loaf

Repeated Readings (3–5 per week)	I will read the book to the whole group in English on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
When will I read the book?	On Tuesday, our Spanish bilingual educator comes. She will read the book in Spanish to the Spanish-speaking children.
Will I read it to one large group or two half	They will discuss it with her in Spanish. This will help with comprehension the rest of the week in English.
groups?	
Oral Language Skills	Talk about the steps for making bread at lunch.
What are 3 activities related to the story to be	Talk about helping friends while waiting for the bus.
done at other times of the day so the children can	Make bread in the dramatic play bakery. Have recipe books, with pictures. Write recipes and lists of
practice conversation?	ingredients.
Family Involvement	Ask parents to talk about the bread of their home
What are 1–3 activities I will use for the school-	country. If their culture does not have bread, talk about the alternative. If they have bread, make some, or buy
home link?	some and share together. Talk about sharing with and helping friends.
Evaluation	The children liked the story. By the third day, they
How did it go? How did the children react? What	chimed in with "not I" and "I will" with gusto. Some understood the true meaning when we reenacted on the
did they learn? How did the parents react?	last day, and the dogs, the cats, and the geese had to watch the hens eat and not them. So they decided to reenact again next week, with everybody helping and eating together!
	They understood the steps for making bread. That's good preparation for baking for real next week.
	Four parents said their children were very curious about bread this week.