

### Sample Menu of Weekly Family Literacy Events

Each week try to do at least three activities from List A, two from List B. and one from List C. You may choose to do the same activity more than one time, or you may do one activity several times. The individual differences of families might be addressed by providing choices or a menu of activities to promote literacy opportunities and promote home-school partnerships.

#### List A - Casual Holistic Activities

1. Read to your child for 10 minutes. When appropriate, use factual or braille books which are fun for you and your child (See list contained in this handout).
2. Let your child observe you reading something, either for fun (such as a magazine or a book) or to get a job done (reading a recipe or the TV Guide).
3. Give your child paper and something to write with (Slate and stylus and/or braille). Encourage your child to scribble by placing a piece of braille paper on the carpet and make braille dots by poking holes in the paper using a golf tee.
4. Encourage your child to read a book or magazine, pretend-read, or look at the pictures in a book or magazine for five minutes.
5. Talk with your child about something you have read together.
6. Let your child listen to books on tapes or records.

#### List B- Interactive Activities Dealing With Literacy Skills or Strategies

1. Encourage your child to point to or examine words or letters (on signs or labels in your home in Braille) that she or he knows. Talk to your child about words or letters (Braille/Print).
2. Encourage your child to tell you a story, either one that is already familiar or one that the child has made up. Let your child help you make a shopping list.
3. Play sound games with your child, such as "I am thinking of something in this room that rhymes with fat or that begins like Dan."
4. Play word games with your child, such as "Let's see how many animals (or colors or vegetables) we can name."

#### List C- Extended Activities Requiring a Substantial Time Investment

1. Take your child to the library to check out books or purchase books from book store. Print books can be easily adapted in braille by having someone braille on clear contact paper and then adhering each sheet to the print pages.
2. Help your child write a letter to a friend or relative.

3. Have your child tell you a short story while you write it down in print or braille; then your child can draw a picture to go with the story.
4. Take your child to the zoo, a museum, a farm, the airport, or someplace that she or he has never been before; talk about what you experience.

#### Predictable Books

Predictable books are books in which parts of text are repeated often, such as in "The Little Red Hen". When the Little Red Hen says "Who will help me, ..." a child soon will anticipate when that line will occur and be ready to join in with the reader on that part. There are many, many predictable books available in libraries. These are only some suggested ones.

Arno, E. (1967). The gingerbread man. New York: Scholastic.

Asbjorsin, P. (1973). The three billy coats gruff. New York: Houghton-Mifflin.

Blegvad, E. (illust.). (1980). The three little nips. New York: Atheneum.

Brett, J. (1987). Goldilocks and the three bears. New York: Dodd.

Brown, M. W. (1956). Press. Home for bunny. Racine, WI: Golden Press.

Butler, D. (1988). MY brown bear Barne. Greenwillow.

Carle, E. (1984). The very busy solder. Publisher.  
New York: Putnam

Charlip, R. (1964). Fortunately. New York: Parents Magazine Press.

Charlip, R. (1969). What wood luck! What bad luck! New York: Scholastic.

Domanska, J. (1969). The turnip. New York: MacMillan.

Eastman, P. D. (1960). Are you my mother? New York: Random House.

Galdone, P. (1975). The gingerbread boy. New York: Clarion.

Galdone, P. (1973). The little red hen. New York: Scholastic.

Guarino, D. (1989). Is your momma a llama? New York: Scholastic.

Guy, G. F. (1991). Black crow, black crow. New York: Greenwillow.

Keats, E. J. (1971). Over in the meadow. New York: Scholastic.

Martin, B. (1970). Brown bear, brown bear. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

Nichol, P. (1983). Once a lullaby. New York: Greenwillow.

Stevenson, J. (1977). Could be worse! New York: Greenwillow.

Thomas, P. (1971). "Stand back" said the elephant, "I'm coins to

sneeze." New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.

Wickstrom, S. A. (Illustrator). (1988). The wheels on she bus. New York: Crown Publisher.

#### Stories for Young Children to Use Objects

Brown, M. W. (1942). The indoor noisy book. New York: Harper & Row.

Household sounds are very appropriate for toddlers and preschool children.

Numeroff, L. J. (1985). If you give a mouse a cookie. New York: Harper & Row.

Most of the concepts are appropriate for children who cannot see pictures although a few are not. Suggested ages 3-7.

Ormerod, J. (1989). The saucepan game. New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard.

A story game using a pan to present concepts such as on, in, handle, lid, etc. Suggested ages 1-3.

Roffey, M. (1988). Bathtime. New York: Four Winds Press.

A simple story sequence about bath and bed routine. Many items are mentioned in the story, but the number used should be adjusted to the attention and concept level of the child. For very young children.

Ziefert, H. (1988). Goodnight everyone! Boston, MA: Little Brown and Company.

A story about bedtime troubles of stuffed animals. Suggested ages 2-5.

#### A List of a Few Tactile Books

The touch me book. Pat and Eva Witte. In bookstores or from Seedlings (for very young children).

Pat the bunny. By Kunhardt.

Pat the cat. By Kunhardt.

Catching. By Virginia Allen-Jensen. (1983). Philomen.

What's that? By Virginia Allen-Jensen. (1977). Philomen.

Best for a nest. Lois Harrell. (1976). From APH. Probably for an older preschooler who has had some experience using tactile illustrations.

### A List of Print-Braille Books

Prelutsky, J. (1986). Ride a Purple pelican. New York: Greenwillow.

Martin, B., Archanbault, J. (1988). Listen to the rain. New York: Henry Halt and Co.

Martin, B., Archanbault, J. (1989). Chicka chicka boom boom. New York: Simon and Schuster. Good for close to school age. A lot about letter names.

Preston, E. M. (1974). Squawk to the moon, little goose. New York: Viking Penguin. Concepts, probably upper preschool level.

Walt Disney's Cinderella. New York: Random House.

Yolen, J. (1987). Owl noon. New York: Philomel Books. Upper preschool or older but a beautiful story, really for any age.

### Additional Resources

National Braille Press, 88 St. Stephen St., Boston, MA 02115 (This program offers a "Book of the Month" format. Books cost the same as the print edition and are available in braille and print.)

Seedlings, 8447 Marygrove Dr., Detroit, MI 48221 (Catalog available of print/braille books)

On the Way to Literacy Early Experiences for Visually Impaired Children (Includes factual braille print books.)

American Printing House for the Blind, 1839 Frankfort Ave., P.O. Box 6085, Louisville, KY 40206-0085

Beginning braille instruction for parents - self study approach: Just Enough to Know Better: A braille primer By Eileen P. Curran, M.Ed.

National Braille Press Inc., 88 St. Stephen Street, Boston, MA 02115

Braille Literacy (Pamphlet) American Foundation for the Blind

Print and Braille Literacy (Pamphlet) American Printing House