



FOLLOW-UP

ART AND STORYBOOKS: IDEAS FROM STEAM

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015

Thank You!

We're so glad you were able to join us for another Teacher Time. Let's continue to learn from each other! Send your ideas, questions, and strategies to ncqtl@uw.edu and we'll include them on Teacher Time.

Looking Ahead

Be sure to watch the next Teacher Time, **Friday, April 10, 3 p.m. EDT (noon PDT)**, for **Preschool Math Ideas: Hiding in Plain Sight**.

Presentation Summary

This month our conversation was about using storybooks to ask questions. Questions—especially planned and intentional questions—are an important way to encourage and support children's critical thinking skills. Déana Scipio from the Institute for Science and Math Partnerships showed us how to bring out STEAM content and ideas in storybooks. Déana also demonstrated how to do "think alouds" by sharing our thinking out loud while we read. For example, "I wonder where the squirrel lives? What is the squirrel's habitat?"

Key messages from the presentation:

- Point out interesting parts of the illustrations and let children take a closer look.
- Ask questions that allow children to make predictions, explain their thinking, and connect concepts to their own lives and experiences.
- Use storybooks as an assessment tool. For example, before starting a lesson on living and non-living things, a teacher reads books on this topic and records how many children start the lesson with prior knowledge. At the end of the lesson, the teacher can read the same books and see how many more children understand the concepts in the lesson.
- Use storybooks to introduce scientific content. Déana shared picture books that demonstrate science concepts through fiction, informational text, poetry, and scientific illustrations.
- The three book titles that Déana read on the show:
 - *The Salamander Room* by Anne Mazer
 - *A Seed is Sleepy* by Dianna Aston and Sylvia Long
 - *Butterfly Eyes* by Dianna Aston and Sylvia Long

Try It Out

A Head Start on Picturing America was created by the National Endowment for the Humanities to promote the use of artwork in Head Start programs. In 2010, all Head Start grantees were given this free resource. Picturing America includes a box of 40 poster-size laminated prints of American artwork, crafts, and architecture. A resource guide offers conversation starters and activities, and guidance for planning a family night.

Tips for Teachers: Storybooks Bring STEAM Ideas to Life

This worksheet, included in a separate link, provides ways you can explore STEAM concepts when you use storybooks. Here are the steps at a glance:

1. Select books that support the theme, lesson, or concept you plan to teach.
2. Review the book for STEAM content. What STEAM concepts are present?
3. Choose interesting vocabulary words to define and discuss.
4. Create a list of conversation starters.

Resources

- Picturing America <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/teaching/pa>
- Early childhood STEM learning through the arts <http://www.wolftrap.org/education/institute-for-early-learning-through-the-arts/impact.aspx>
- Engaging Interactions and Environments: Language Modeling and Conversations 15-minute In-service Suites <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/teaching/practice/iss-library.html>

Behavior Management Minute

When and Then

Use the words “when” and “then” to redirect children’s behavior.

- **When** you are sitting quietly... **then** I will bring the picture to you.
- **When** your paintbrush is on the table... **then** I will bring you some paint.
- **When** you have your hands in your lap... **then** I will hand you an instrument.

The key is to tell children the behavior that you *want* to see. (Not what you *don’t* want to see—for example, “When you stop running, then you can have the book.”) It’s better to tell children the behavior you want them to do instead of focusing on the misbehavior.

Resiliency & Wellness

Cognitive Flipping

As teachers, we have moments of worry or stress! We can stop and think, what if I didn’t feel this way? What would be different? Just as we flip a light switch on or off, we can mentally flip a switch to help change a stressful moment into a more peaceful one.



For more information, contact us at: NCQTL@UW.EDU or 877-731-0764

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