

Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! 2018

The Just Read, Florida! Office and the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), in partnership with other FDOE offices, the Office of Early Learning, school districts, early learning coalitions and numerous other state agencies, are pleased to announce the tenth annual statewide *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* The event will take place the week of **Jan. 22-26, 2018.**

Please join us...

In celebrating literacy by encouraging providers to participate in our simultaneous reading activity on Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 9 a.m. (EST).

Providers can support this effort to promote literacy in their homes, centers and schools by reading *Over in the Ocean in a Coral Reef* by Marianne Berkes for infants and toddlers, and *Big Al* by Andrew Clements for 3- to 5-year-olds. We encourage you to use the expansion activities on the back of this notice.

The foundation for reading is built from infancy. A child's early experiences with books and language lay the foundation for success in learning to read. When you read, talk or play with children, their brains are stimulated and build the connections that become the building blocks for reading. Brain development research shows that the development of language and literacy skills begins at birth and reading aloud to children every day increases their brains' capacity for language and literacy skills.

Reading a book to young children is not only one of the best activities to stimulate language and cognitive skills, but it also builds motivation for reading along with curiosity and memory. The more words parents use when speaking to their infant, the greater the size of the infant's vocabulary.

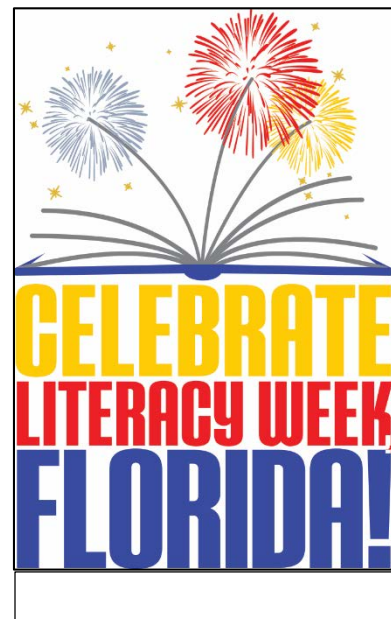


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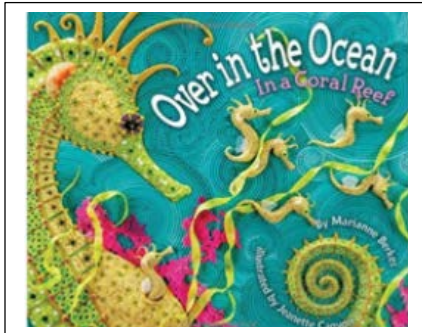
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What can providers and families do to provide early literacy experiences for children?

- Hold young children on your lap or close to you. Read an age-appropriate book and engage in back-and-forth dialogue about the words and pictures.
- Engage in repeated sequences of interactions between you and the children. Point out something on the page and ask the children questions like "What's that?" "What's that kitty doing?" as well as open-ended questions.
- Allow children to respond and then provide feedback.



Infant/toddler (Birth to 3-year-olds)



Note:
Words can
be sung to
the
children's
song, *Over
in the
Meadow.*

Expansion activities

This year's selection for Celebrate Literacy Week is *Over in the Ocean in a Coral Reef* by Marianne Berkes.

Learning Words! After reading the story and learning about the sea creatures in the book you can play **Hide and Seek** with toy sea creatures. Hide the toys around the room and encourage the children to look for the creatures and name them each time they find a creature: "You found a fish! You found a seahorse! Tell me what creature you found!" With older children you can use the name of the creatures in the book; "You found a Puffer Fish!" (Standards: **Language and Communication-Early Reading**-Builds and uses vocabulary with language pictures and books.)

Water Play! Using a container for water play, add water to half of the container, add plastic sea creatures and let the children enjoy the feeling of playing with the toys in the water. This is also a good opportunity to talk about the sensory experience and learn vocabulary and concepts like dry or wet, float or sink! (Standards: **Cognitive Development and General Knowledge-Exploration and Discovery**-Responds in varied ways to people and objects.)

Puppet Time! Use sea creature puppets to sing the lyrics of the story; add body movements to make it a gross motor experience. If you have enough puppets, each child can play and dance to the lyrics of the song with their puppets and learn the movement fish do in the water! (Standards: **Language and Communication-Listening and Understanding**-Gains meaning through listening.)

Look Around! Find real pictures of sea creatures, laminate them (if possible) and place them around the room at child eye level or on the floor for children who are crawling. Let the children explore the room and find the pictures while talking to them. Tell the children what you see: "I can see a blue fish swimming in the water!" (Standards: **Approaches to Learning-Eagerness and Curiosity**-Shows eagerness and curiosity as a learner.)

Preschool (3- to 5-year-olds)



Expansion activities

This year's selection for Celebrate Literacy Week is *Big Al* by Andrew Clements.

Draw Al! Read the story to children the first time without showing the illustrations. After reading, ask children to draw/color a picture of what they think Al looks like based on the story. When the children have finished their drawings, show the pictures of Al in the book. Ask the children how their drawings are the same and different. (Standards: **Creative Expression through the Arts**-Creates visual arts to communicate an idea **Language and Communication-Emergent Reading**: Demonstrates comprehension of text read aloud.)

Let's Measure! Provide books about different kinds of fish and the ocean. Talk about the different fish and how big they are. Have rope/string available so children can measure how long the fish are. For example, how big is a shark compared to the guppy in the classroom fish tank? Ask the children how big they think Big Al was. Have them use the rope/string to show how big he was. What about the other fish that Big Al wanted to be friends with—how big were they? (Standards: **Mathematical Thinking-Measurement**-Engages in activities that explore measurement.)

Let's Share! Share with children that the class is a "family of friends" having similarities and differences. Highlight similarities and differences within the class by using a graph for yes and no answers. Graph the following: 1. Family Differences - Who has brothers and sisters? 2. Food Preference Differences - Who likes pizza? (could be another food), etc. Discuss graphing results.

(Standards: **Mathematical Thinking-Measurement**-Represents and analyzes data. **Social and Emotional Development**-Shows increasing confidence in their own abilities.)