

Hands-on... The "Write" Approach to Early Literacy
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Goals

Participants will...

- Gain an understanding of the connection between brain research and teaching strategies to increase early literacy skills.
- Engage in hands-on activities to promote early literacy skills
- Be exposed to resources that provide hands-on early literacy activities
- Leave with many ideas and activities ready for immediate implementation.

Using
Brain Research
 to
 Teach Smarter not harder!!



Brain Research...

- ❑ Each region of the brain interconnects to another.
- ❑ The brain's emotional center is closely linked to learning and memory.

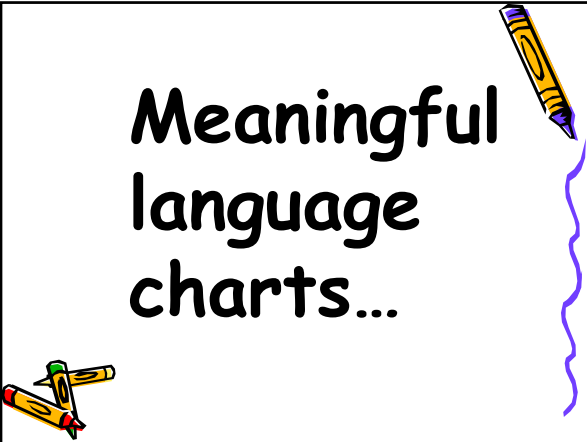
Classroom Applications...

- ❑ Engage many of the senses and intelligences at the same time.
- ❑ Learning is a social activity. Children need opportunities to engage in dialogue.
- ❑ Use collaborative grouping to support a range of abilities and learning styles.

KWL Chart

K	W	L
What we know about fish - they live in water - some are big and some are small - they can be in tanks at your house - you can eat them - you can catch them with hooks	What we want to know about fish what happens to them when the water turns to ice? what do fish eat? How do they breathe in the water?	What we learned about fish - Fish go really really deep under the ice - Fish eat fish food and other fish - Fish have gills to help them breathe in water

Meaningful language charts...




- ## Brain Research...
- Brains change physiologically from experiences.
 - New dendrites “hook” onto established connections.
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- ## Classroom Applications...
- Encourage children to explore their feelings and ideas.
 - Hands-on activities and active participation form stronger associations with existing knowledge.
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My friends matching game



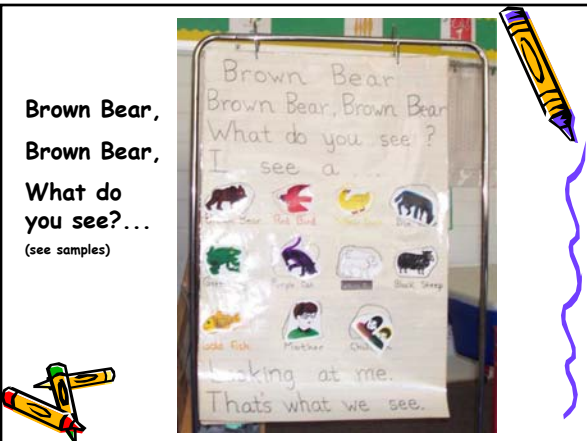
Brown Bear,
Brown Bear,
What do you see?...
(see samples)



Brown Bear
Brown Bear, Brown Bear
What do you see?
I see a

Looking at me.
That's what we see.



- ## Brain Research...
- Each brain is unique.
 - Each brain grows at its own timetable.
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Classroom Applications...

- Children must be provided choices to accommodate the range of learning styles and abilities.
 - New information should be presented in a context that is meaningful for each child and builds upon prior knowledge.
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Message Board...



Using pictures of families to introduce unit on family.

Where I "work" at my school.



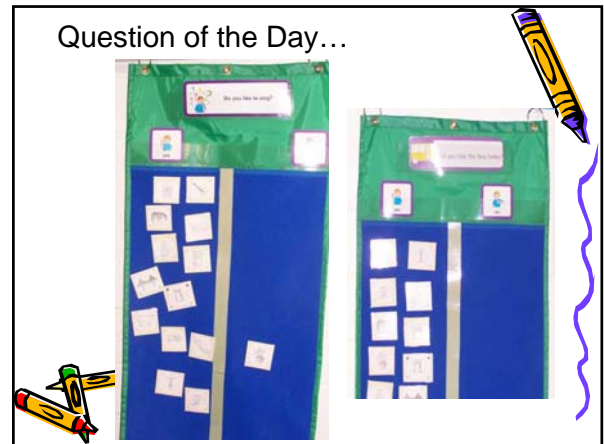
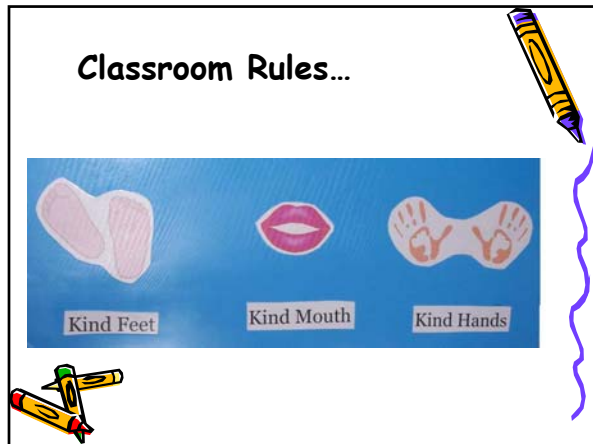
(See About My School Power point and book)

Brain Research...

- Learning windows of opportunity exist.
 - The critical period for learning a spoken language is lost by age 10.
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Classroom Applications...

- Provide frequent opportunities for children to interact verbally, use sensory inputs, language and motor skills.
 - Long term memory depends on repeated interaction with materials, peers, and ideas.
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Brain Research...

- Each child is challenged by different problems and threatened by different social situations.
- Early classroom experience shapes a child's future learning habits.

Classroom Applications...

- Create centers with a range of problems to solve and materials to use.
- Use a variety of teaching methods and materials to promote the exploration of ideas through each of the senses.

Brain Research...

- Speech comes naturally.
- Reading is one of the most complex tasks the brain must perform.

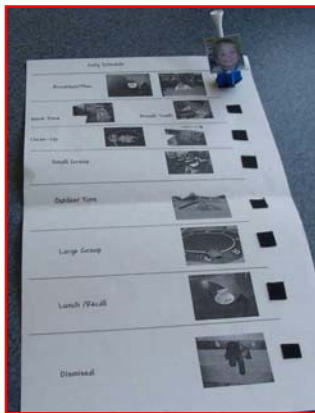
Classroom Applications...

- ❑ Teach children the relevance of reading.
- ❑ Connect reading with a child's speaking and writing.
- ❑ Provide opportunities for reading aloud and reading for meaning.

Predictable
daily
schedule...



Teaching
the daily
schedule
(see sample)



Reading Opportunities...



I'm a Good Friend
Book...teaching social skills




Writing Opportunities...






Word Wall








Letter Pointer





Word Pointer




Word Bank...





Writing Words from the "Word Bank"





Letter Links...



Dawson

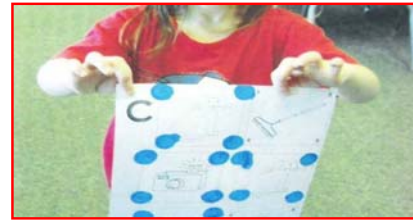


I Spy with my Little eye...





"Now what would the best way to hold this hammer be?"



"Look, I found my letter, C"



"Wow, my letter sure looks big when looking through here."



Brain Research...

- Children raised in nonacademically oriented environments have little experience with decontextualized language.

Classroom Applications...

- Visual, hands-on strategies help these children to reason.
- Visual and dramatic arts assist these children to express ideas and understanding.
- Visual images, physical activity, and symbolic representation.

Flip Crayons...



(Pick up a Crayon Song activity)



Big Lines, Little Lines, Big Curves,
Little Curves...



What's Missing????

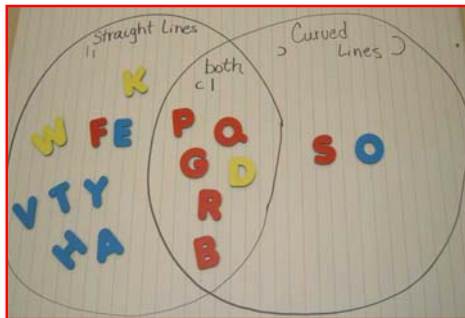
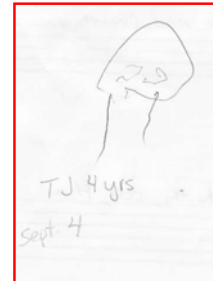


Mat Man...



Mat man song...

Self Portrait...



Drawing attention to letters and their distinguishing features.

Brain Research...

- High levels of stress or perceived threats cause the brain to “shut down”.

Classroom Applications...

- Connect learning to positive emotions.
- Let students make meaningful choices about their learning.
- Support risk taking.
- Teach children that failures are a natural part of learning.

Extension Activity from Chicka Chicka Boom Boom...



Will it take more big foot prints or more little footprints to climb to the top of the coconut tree?



Playing "in and out" game...

(get materials and play game)



Thank You!



Resources:

- Handwriting Without Tears for Preschoolers/pre-k Teachers
Get for School Sing along CD
Jan Olsen www.hwtears.com
- Felt board Fingerplays, Liz & Dick Wilmes

Resources:

- Letter Links, Andrea DeBruin-Parecki & Mary Hohmann www.highscope.org
 - Lesson Plans for the first 30 Days
Beth Marshall www.highscope.org
 - From Message to Meaning, Using a daily message board in the preschool classroom, S. Gainsley
www.highscope.org
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