

Fostering Readers

Play with Words

These research-based [key elements and strategies](#) will help you design an adventure rich in literacy skill-building.

Key Elements

- Read aloud
- Book browsing and choice
- Nurture diversity
- Draw connections
- Have fun!

Key Strategies

- Read aloud interactively
- Ask [the three VTS questions](#)
- Discuss with a buddy
- Extend language
- Nurture diversity in languages

Grade range: Grades 1-4

Group Size (ideal): 4-10

Time Range: 90 min

Adventure Goals

Our goal in *every* adventure is for children to have fun with books and reading!

Measurable Objectives

- Expand vocabulary
- Play with words



Adventure Outline

This literacy adventure includes the following elements, in no particular order

- Hook: Read “Prinderella and the Cince”, from *Once Upon a Time: using Storytelling, Creative Drama, and Reader’s Theater with Children in Grades PreK-6*, by Judy Freeman or *Books Kids Will Sit Still For 3: A Read-Aloud Guide*, by Judy Freeman
- Getting Started/Read-Aloud: *Friendshape* and/or *A New Green Day*
- Book Browsing:
 - Booktalk instead for virtual program
 - [Suggested titles](#)
- Possible Activities (there is not time for all of these):

Jokes

- What’s worse than finding a slug in your apple? Finding half a slug in your apple.
- Why is Cinderella no good at football? Her coach was a pumpkin.
- Why do seagulls live near the sea? Because if they lived near the bay, they’d be bagels.
- What do you call a fly without wings? A walk
- Why don’t bears wear shoes? There’s no point. They’d still have bear feet.
- Why did the house go to the doctor? Because it had a window pane.

Riddles

- What can go up and down without moving? Temperature
- How much dirt is in a hole 1 ft wide and 1 ft deep? None. It’s a hole.
- What has keys that open no locks, space but no room and you can enter but not go in? A keyboard
- If you have it, you want to share it. If you share it, you don’t have it. A secret
- Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain on earth? Mt. Everest
- How many months have 28 days? All of them

Puzzles

- How many words can you make using letters from PANCAKE?
- How many animals can you think of beginning with the letter A?

Discussions

- If you could change your name, what would you change it to and why?



- What is your favorite book right now?

Games

- Animal chains: Last letter becomes first letter
- Word association: Person says word and the next person says a word that is somehow related to it. Keep going.
- 20 questions
- Change one letter in the movie to make a new name
 - Peter Pan
 - Kung Fu Panda
 - Cars
 - Night at the Museum
 - Shark Tale
 - How to Train Your Dragon

Story telling

- [Fortunately, unfortunately](#)

Tongue Twisters

- Write down a bunch of words that start with the same letter. The more alike they sound the better. Try to make them into a sentence.
- Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked.

- Wrap Up: Share what they created



Supplies

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Considerations for Planning

- Virtual program:
 - If necessary, provide supply bags for participants to pick up in advance
 - It's counterintuitive to me, but I have found that the kids do better with less structure when participating in the program virtually
 - Start with introductions, including pronouns
 - Do booktalks instead of book browsing
 - Sometimes I introduce the activity and let them work on it while I'm booktalking. Other times, I do the booktalks and then we do the activity. During the activity, we all just kind of visit and they show me and each other the stuff they are working on as we go along

Activity plan created by Holly Campbell-Polivka at Tigard Public Library

