

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

We encourage teachers to read to their children every day. Research has shown that reading aloud to young children is the single most important factor in learning how to read. This guide was developed to help teachers implement successful storytimes in their classrooms.

After much thought and discussion, the MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS staff identified a core list of 25 titles that we feel every young child should know. This guide offers storytime ideas for each of these books. Our purpose is to help teachers share these wonderful stories with children in fun, meaningful ways.

Please use this as a resource but feel free to add to or modify any of the activities to meet the needs of your children. For each title you will find the following storytime elements:

Things to get ready

Read through each storytime before you begin so that you can decide which activities you would like to do if you need to modify anything. Be sure to read each book ahead of time so you can do a great job reading it aloud.

Getting the children ready to listen

This section includes fingerplays, poems, and songs. These types of activities will help to focus the children and introduce the topic of the story. Fingerplays help children to develop their fine motor skills, to increase their vocabulary, and to learn new concepts. Songs and poems are great for language development and give children a sense of empowerment when they learn them. You can encourage children to teach songs and poems to their families. Singing can be especially effective in getting children to come over to the storytime area and in settling them down.

Read-Aloud Guide

A step-by-step guide is offered in this section to help you get the most out of reading each book aloud. Suggestions of what to do *before* you read will prepare the children for a certain topic and will increase their interests. What you do *during* the reading will encourage children's active participation. Questions and comments you make *after* reading will help children make connections to their own lives and experiences.

Extension Activity

Extension activities are suggested for each book. Please encourage children to take their projects home and retell the stories to their parents. This is an excellent way to enhance language development and comprehension. Certain activities in this section ask teachers to write down what the children dictate or tell about their pictures. This helps children see that what they say can be written down and then read by others.

Related Books

Teachers are encouraged to read related books to their children to reinforce a particular topic. All suggested books are available at the public library.