

Reading Starts With Us

How to Build on Your Family Literacy Efforts

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Reading Starts With Us is a workshop series that provides parents with the tools to make reading and discussing books a source of enjoyment and learning in their families. Through adult discussion of the children's books and related adult reading selections, each workshop provides a book group type experience for the adults. The program was developed at the Center for Intergenerational Reading at New York City Technical College/CUNY.

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- Introductions
- Goals of Reading Starts With Us .Hands-on Experience
- The Reading Starts With Us Model
- Questions and Ideas

Reading Starts With Us

What is Reading Starts With Us?

Reading Starts With Us is a workshop series that introduces parents to different kinds of quality children's literature and strategies that good readers use. The workshop experience provides parents with the tools, information, and motivation to read to children at home. The discussion of the children's books and the adult reading selections provide enjoyable and meaningful literacy experiences for adults.

The *Reading Starts With Us* kit provides sets of award-winning multicultural children's literature and print materials for a six-session parent workshop series.

GENRE	BOOK	STRATEGY
Folktales	<i>The Little Red Hen</i>	Making Predications
Concept Books	<i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i>	Asking Questions Based on Concepts
Realistic Fiction	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	Relating Reading to Personal Experience and Feelings
Nonfiction	<i>On the Go</i>	Learning New Information
Wordless Picture Books	<i>School</i>	Creating a Story From Pictures
Poetry	<i>Fathers, Mothers, Sisters, Brothers</i> <i>Arroz Con Leche</i>	Rereading

What does Reading Starts With Us accomplish?

Reading Starts With Us promotes family literacy and increases parents' involvement in their children's literacy development. It can also help accomplish community outreach and literacy goals of libraries.

The Benefits of a *GENRES and STRATEGIES* Approach

GENRE	BENEFIT	STRATEGY
<i>Folktales</i>	Promote identification with one's own culture and learning about others.	<i>Predicting</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think will happen next? • Why?
<i>Concept Books</i>	Promote learning important concepts.	<i>Asking Questions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What questions do you have about the concepts?
<i>Realistic Fiction</i>	Promotes communication about difficult topics.	<i>Relating Reading to Personal Experience and Feelings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has anything like this happened to you? What was the same? What was different? • How do you think this character feels? How would you feel in the situation?
<i>Nonfiction</i>	Promotes the development of background information.	<i>Learning New Information</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you already know about the topic? • Read to learn more. • What did you learn?
<i>Wordless Picture Books</i>	Promote language development.	<i>Creating a Story from Pictures</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we see in the illustrations? • What are the characters saying/thinking/feeling? • How is the story moving along?
<i>Poetry</i>	Promotes word play and creativity.	<i>Rereading</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What additional meanings come from rereading?

Discussion Topics for School

- Adult Topics

- Children's Topics

- Parent-Child Topics

- School Topics

Wordless Picture Book Workshop

CHILDREN'S BOOK

School

In this book, all but the youngest of the mouse children go to school. When the opportunity presents itself, the youngest one leaves home to find out about school.

GENRE

Wordless Picture Books

Benefits:

- Language development
- No right of wrong answers
- Encourages close observation of illustrations

STRATEGY

Creating a Story from Pictures

- What do you see in the illustration?*
- What are the characters saying/thinking?*
- How is the story moving along?*

PARENT READING SELECTION

Photographs from a magazine of interest to parents

The *Reading Starts With Us* Model

Step 1: Storytelling and Reading Memories
 Reporting on the Reading at Home

Step 2: Presentation of the Genre and the Children's Book

Step 3: Demonstration of the Reading Strategy

Step 4: Practice in Pairs

Step 5: Group Discussion

Step 6: Parent Reading Selection

Step 7: Preparation for Reading at Home

