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Story Time 101



Story Time: The Why

- Support early literacy and model best practices
- Engage children through story, song, rhyme, and movement
- Build community and foster a love of reading
- Promote library and community resources



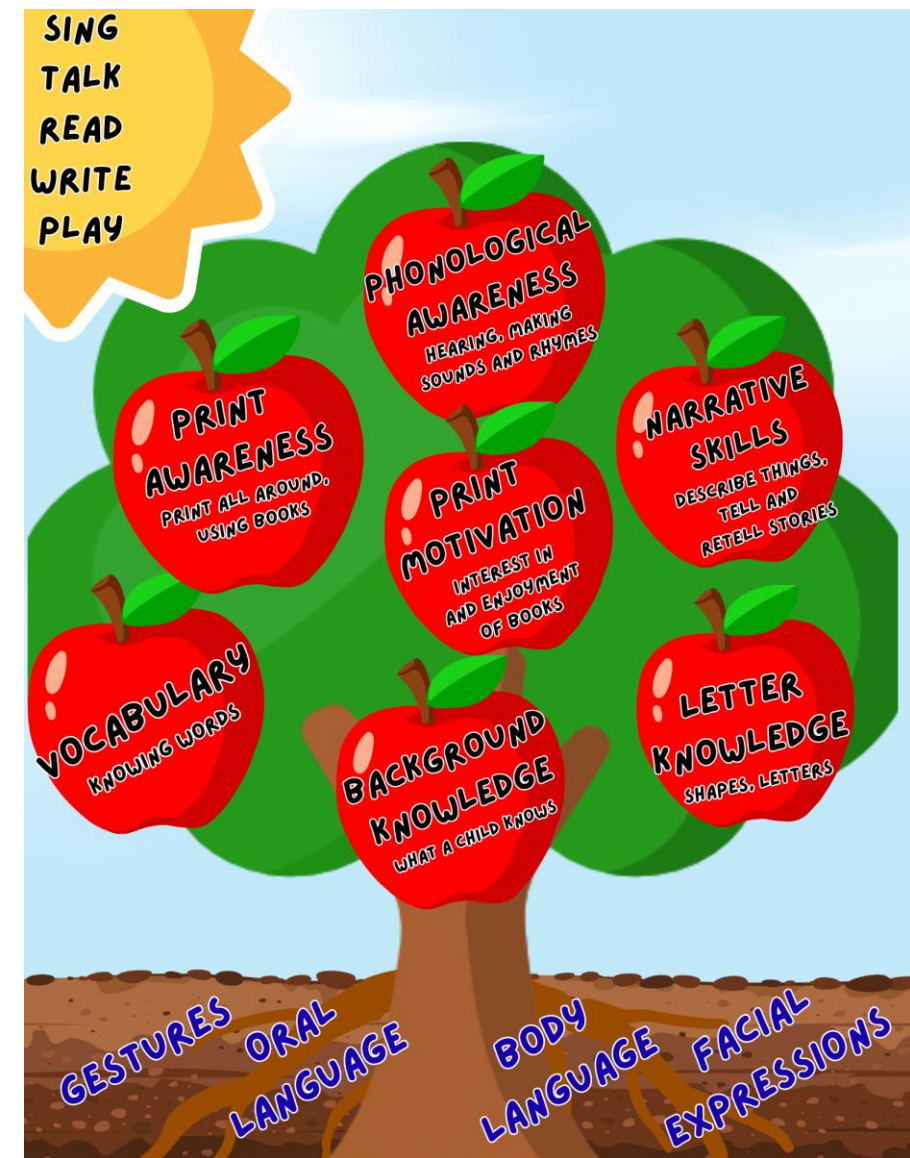
What is Early Literacy?

- What kids know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write.
 - Language: verbal and nonverbal
 - Print and phonemic awareness
 - Fine motor skills used for writing
 - Storytelling (useful for creative writing and reading comprehension)



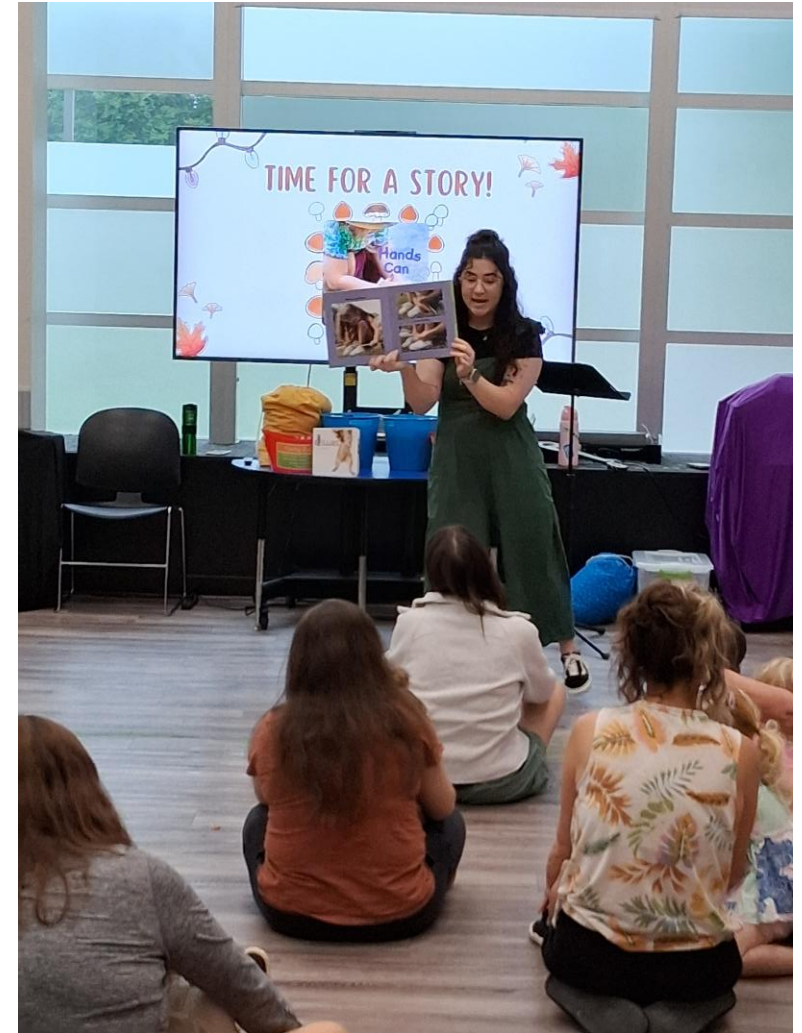
Every Child Ready to Read

- **Talk** - Children start to learn language by hearing people talk. Listening to children is as important as talking to them.
- **Sing** - Singing slows down language. This makes it easier for children to hear the smaller sounds in words, which they will later need to sound out words.
- **Read** - Shared reading is the single most important activity to help children get ready to read.
- **Write** - Writing helps children understand that print has meaning.
- **Play** — Play helps children to think symbolically.



Story Time: Planning

- Start from a place of joy: BOOKS!
 - Short text and clear images for shorter attention spans
 - Repetitive and interactive elements
 - Appropriate size for a group setting



Story Time: Planning

- Break up books with interactive activities
 - Keep kids engaged and activate kinesthetic learning through movement and music.
 - Use puppets to make characters come to life and build connection
 - Intentionally choose songs, activities (magnet-graphs) and rhymes to solidify phonics and mathematical concepts, as well as increase language and print awareness.



Story Time: Planning Considerations

- Themes and Book Flow
 - Age relevance more important than theme
 - Broader themes
- Routine
 - Consistent Opening and Closing Songs
 - Consistent Weekly Agenda/Outline
- Repetition
 - Great for developing brains
 - Enhances early literacy skills
- Flexibility
 - Adapt to audience
 - Energy and Attention





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