

Early Literacy for Children with Special Needs



As with any child, children with special needs all have different learning styles, needs and are at different stages of learning. When looking at your child you must take all these things into consideration when selecting books, reading books to your child and incorporating literacy activities at home. Most importantly though you must provide books and activities that correspond with your child's interests. Including props such as pictures, puppets, felt pieces and concrete objects (i.e. farm animals) give your child something to manipulate while reading a story to him/her.



Adapted Books

Adapted books are great for children who are nonverbal and nonreaders to participate in book time. Basically an adapted book has small velcro pictures to match within the story. You can make any book an adapted book or even make your own! This has worked great with children because they have something to do (match the picture) while listening to a story. It's more hands on and the expectations are clear. Sometimes our kids don't know what to do while listening to a story – do I look, do I sit, do I move my hands? Having the match-the-picture option gives a concrete task to be done.

There are a lot of types of adapted books that can target any type of student or skill set. Here are the types of adapted books you can utilize: Adapt Story Books You Already Have; You can scan the book pages and create small images. Print, laminate, velcro, and you're ready to go! Or you can download pictures that match with the story to do the same.

Student Picture Adapted Books: You can include student pictures in the adapted books and make it all about them. These books can be highly motivating!

Task Box

A task box is quite simple; it has compartments that contain materials for a certain activity. The activities are typically short and structured, and they may offer a nice blend of familiarity and challenge. It may contain an activity such as matching, sorting, letter/number/colour/shape recognition, etc. Any activity that fits in the compartment may be used as part of your child's learning, or in therapy at home.

You can create a variety of task boxes geared to your child's level using a variety of materials. You can make task boxes with shoe boxes, plastic tubs, coffee cans, Clorox wipe containers, plastic cereal containers and tissue boxes and include materials like magnetic letters, shapes, blocks, beads, number/letter cards, etc.

<http://littlemisskimberlyann.blogspot.ca/2013/10/task-box-ideas-for-students-with.html?m=1>

<http://autism.lovetoknow.com/autism-children/task-boxes-autistic-children>

