PARENT WORKSHOP:
Strategies for Reading with your Child

Goal: Support parents and caregivers to recognize their role in promoting literacy in their child.

Use this Parenting Minutes video, discussion questions and suggested activities to guide parents and caregivers through a short workshop that will support families in developing strategies to help strengthen their child’s reading skills. This workshop is intended parents and caregivers of preschool and early elementary school aged children. Have fun!

SUGGESTED TIME
45 minutes

SUGGESTED MATERIALS

• Chart paper and markers
• Screen for projecting Parenting Minutes videos (*you will need internet access to stream these videos)
• Copies of PBS KIDS “Super Storytelling” handouts
• Crayons or markers
• Scissors

VIDEOS

Family Reading Adventures: (https://www.wnet.org/education/video/family-reading-adventures/)

Asking Questions to Support Reading: (https://www.wnet.org/education/video/asking-questions-to-support-reading/)
INTRODUCTION

Begin the workshop by allowing parents and caregivers to introduce themselves and tell how old their children are. If you’d like, include the icebreaker question: “Does your child have a favorite book? Do you have a favorite book from your childhood? What is it?”

DISCUSSION

Introduce the goal of the workshop as a discussion about building children’s literacy skills. Remind parents and caregivers that the most powerful ways to develop these types of skills are simple and may be in practice already in their homes: talk, listen, sing, read, and write with children. Ask the following questions to start a conversation around encouraging literacy:

- What activities do you enjoy doing at home with your children?
- Do you do any reading/writing/singing at home with your child? If so, what do you like to read/write/sing?
- What time of day do you like to read/write/sing with your child? Is it a part of your daily routine?
- What are some other fun activities you do with your children that involve talking, listening, reading, and/or writing? (Playing games, telling stories, acting, etc.)

VIEW VIDEOS

Play the two Parenting Minutes video, “Family Reading Adventures” and “Asking Questions to Support Reading”
*The videos are available in English and Spanish
VIDEO DISCUSSION

Allow some time for comments on the two videos. Prompting questions may include:

- These two videos featured the same family with children of different ages and at different reading levels. How does the mother, Ceucynth, encourage reading as a family?
- What types of reading strategies does Ceucynth use with her children?
- Are there any parts of the video that you could see yourself doing at home with your family? Are there any strategies that you are already using at home to encourage reading? Give examples.

DISTRIBUTE HANDOUTS

Hand out the PBS KIDS Super Storytelling activities (attached below) to parents/caregivers. Explain to parents and caregivers that storytelling is one way to build literacy skills and create and share stories. Allow a few minutes for them to review the activities and let them know that they will be creating their own stories using engaging characters, unique settings, and crazy problems.

SUPER STORYTELLING ACTIVITY

Using the scissors, cut out and color the storytelling cubes. Then, create four piles using the images: one pile for characters; one pile for settings; one pile for weather; and one pile for objects. Then, allow each parent/caregiver to pick one card from each pile to create their unique story. Allow some time for them to think about their story (this can be done individually or in small groups). Parents and caregivers may either write their story down, draw pictures of their story, or orally tell their story. (Remind them that this can all be done in whatever language they are most comfortable.) If they are writing or drawing their story, they can use the Super Storytelling Story Chart to help organize their story.

After parents/caregivers have finished their story creation, allow time for sharing stories as a group.
PBS KIDS RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND CAREGivers

PBS KIDS READING GAMES
https://pbskids.org/games/reading

13 PBS KIDS GAMES FOR READING AND STORYTELLING

PBS KIDS: GROWING AS A READER
https://www.pbs.org/parents/growing-as-a-reader

PBS KIDS: GROWING AS A WRITER
https://www.pbs.org/parents/growing-as-a-writer

PBS KIDS: GOING ON A BOOK-NIC
https://www.wnet.org/education/resources/going-on-a-book-nic/?section=families

SESAME STREET IN COMMUNITIES: READING AND WRITING
https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/reading/

PBS KIDS SUMMER OF POSSIBILITIES: PLAY YOUR WAY
https://www.pbs.org/parents/summer

MOLLY OF DENALI PODCAST
https://pbskids.org/molly/podcast

PINKALICIOUS & PETERRIFIC PODCAST
https://pbskids.org/pinkalicious/podcast

ODD SQUAD PODCAST
https://pbskids.org/oddsquad/podcast
**Super Storytelling**

**Instructions:** Engaging characters, unique settings, and crazy problems to overcome are just some of the elements of good storytelling. Get the super story juices flowing as you mix up characters, settings, and objects for your own super story creations. Color and then cut out each row of images. Keep them in four separate piles. Then, place each pile face down on a flat surface. Mix each set and then choose one card from each pile. Create your own story and write about it using the Super Storytelling chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Weather</th>
<th>Object</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young Child</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>Sunny</td>
<td>Cape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>Baseball Field</td>
<td>Rainy</td>
<td>Seashells and Bucket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandparent</td>
<td>Beach</td>
<td>Cloudy</td>
<td>Rainbow Parachute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older Child</td>
<td>Living Room</td>
<td>Windy</td>
<td>Book</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Find more games and activities at [pbskidsforparents.org](http://pbskidsforparents.org)
**Super Storytelling**

**Instructions:** Use this Super Storytelling chart to brainstorm the parts of your story. Identify the characters and the setting and think about the plot. When you finish your basic outline, you are ready to begin writing!

**Characters:**

**Setting:**

**Plot-First:**

**Plot-Then:**

**Plot-Last:**

Find more games and activities at pbskidsforparents.org