



## Week Four; Toy Trains, Pretending

October 17, 2013, 10:30-11 a.m.

### Early literacy practice: Writing

- Writing and reading go together.
- Writing helps children learn that letters and words stand for sounds and that print has meaning.
- Scribbling and drawing are forms of writing — they may not be words, but the lines and pictures mean something to your child.
- Pre-writing helps children develop eye-hand coordination and the fine motor control they need to hold a pencil.

### Early literacy skill: Narrative Skills

The ability to describe things and events and tell stories -- Why? Being able to talk about and explain what happens in a story helps a child understand that meaning of what he or she is reading. Good narrative skills lead to good comprehension.

### What Can You Do to Help Build this Skill?

- Encourage everyone one in the family to talk about their day at meal times.
- Listen to your child's stories and tell stories about when you or your child was young.

### Toy trains, imaginary stories, and books that invite pre-writing

Fleischman, Paul. *Time Train*. P FLEISCHMAN  
 Ichikawa, Satomi. *My Little train*. P ICHIKAWA  
 Johnson , Angela. *I Dream of Trains*. P JOHNSON  
 Lehman, Barbara. *Trainstop*. P LEHMAN  
 Macaulay, David. *Black and White*. P MACAULEY  
 Rinker, Sherri. *Steam Train Dream Train*. P RINKER  
 Zullo, Germana. *Line 135*. P ZULLO

### Rhymes and Songs

Open them, shut them, give a little clap!  
 Open them, shut them, lay them in your lap.  
 Creep them, creep them, creep them,  
 right up to your chin.  
 Open up your little mouth,  
 but don't let them in!  
 (repeat 1<sup>st</sup> two lines)

### Engine on the Track

[Point to fingers as rhyme indicates.]  
 Here is the engine on the track  
 [Hold up thumb.]  
 Here is the coal car, just in back  
 [Pointer finger.]  
 Here is the box car to carry freight  
 [Middle finger.]  
 Here is the mail care. Don't be late.  
 [Ring finger.]  
 Way back here at the end of the train.  
 [Little finger.]  
 Rides the caboose through the sun and rain.

### Hear the Engine Puff

Hear the engine puff, choo-choo-choo,  
 Hear the whistle blow, toot-toot-too.  
 Hear the big bell ring, ding-dong-ding,  
 Hear the brakeman shout "All Aboard".

### The Wabash Cannonball

Words by: Theodore Dreiser  
 From the great Atlantic Ocean  
 To the wide Pacific shore  
 To the queen of flowing mountains  
 To the southbell by the door  
 She's long and tall and handsome  
 And loved by one and all  
 She's a modern combination  
 Called the Wabash Cannonball

Oh listen to the jingle  
 The rumble and the roar  
 As she glides along the woodlands  
 Through the hills and by the shores  
 Hear the mighty rush of engines  
 Hear the lonesome hobos' call  
 We're travelling through the jungles  
 On the Wabash Cannonball

The eastern states are dandies  
 So the western people say  
 From New York to St. Louis  
 And Chicago by the way  
 Through the hills of Minnesota  
 Where the rippling waters fall  
 No chances can be taken  
 On the Wabash Cannonball

Oh listen to the jingle  
 The rumble and the roar  
 As she glides along the woodlands  
 Through the hills and by the shores  
 Hear the mighty rush of engines  
 Hear the lonesome hobos' call  
 We're travelling through the jungles  
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### Closing

My hands say "thank you" with a clap, clap, clap  
 My toes say "thank you" with a tap, tap, tap  
 Clap, clap, clap, tap, tap, tap  
 Rrrrrroll your hands and wave "good-bye"!

### Take-home Tips

- Writing doesn't always have to be writing — it can be tracing in sand, playing with clay or play dough, scribbling, drawing, coloring, painting, stamping, using scissors or holepunches, connecting blocks, twisting caps off and on bottles, playing with Cheerios or other small cereal or crinkling up newspaper to help strengthen finger muscles!
- Encourage children to scribble, draw, paint and participate in fingerplays to get them ready to write!
- Have your child decorate a Kleenex box to be a mailbox, and use it for "letters" between the family!
- Make a "menu" for a pretend restaurant!
- Paper plates and cardboard boxes make a train!
- Roll a train thru paint; Wheel art!

