

Word Clouds



Every Child Ready to Read; Talking

Children learn about language by listening to parents and caregivers talk and by joining in conversation. The experience of self-expression also stimulates brain development, which underlies all learning.

- Stretch your child's vocabulary. Repeat what your child says and use new words. "You want a banana? That's a healthy choice."
- Infants and young children need to hear the language (or languages) they will eventually speak in order to learn it — so if you speak two languages at home, it is beneficial to speak both languages to your child.
- Talking to your child in the language you are most fluent in is the best way to help your child develop early literacy skills.
- Very young children can **understand** spoken words long before they can **speak** any of them — so talk to them and you will be amazed at how your child responds.
- Talking to your child about many different events, ideas and stories helps them develop the general knowledge they need to understand the content of what they will read in books when they are older.

Source: http://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/reading_pre.pdf

Talking and pre-literacy at home:

Research tells us that for children to become readers, they should listen and talk a lot. At ages 3 and 4, children are learning the meanings of many new words, and they are beginning to use words in more complicated sentences when they speak. They are learning the meanings of many new words, and they are beginning to use words in more complicated sentences when they speak.

- When you do something together, talk about it!
- Play with words. Have fun with tongue twisters such as "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers" and nonsense rhymes such as "Hey Diddle, Diddle."

Dark Cloud Activities

- Make a rain gauge by cutting off the top of a clear, cylindrical bottle or jar. (a flat bottom is best) Mark off inches with a permanent marker, or tape one of the free tape measures you can pick up at Ikea, starting at the bottom. Set outside in the open.
- Outgrown or leaky rainboots make cute flowerpots for bulbs. Put gravel in the bottom for drainage and stability, then potting soil and bulbs. Acrylic paint can give added decoration.



Microwave Cloud:

- Put half a bar (or less) of Ivory Soap on a paper plate
- Microwave 30 seconds at a time and keep checking until it "explodes" into a cloud!

You can still use the cloud as soap afterwards! (Side benefit; a clean microwave!) How does this work? The same air bubbles that make Ivory float expand when heated!



Preschool Storytime; Dark Clouds

February 28, 2013, 10:30-11 a.m.

Books

Brett, Jan. *The umbrella.*

G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2004. Carlos goes into the cloud forest to look for animals, but he manages to miss seeing them even though they have an adventure with his umbrella.

P BRETT

Cumming, Hannah. *The cloud.*

Child's Play, 2010. A little girl seems to have a black cloud hanging over her in art class, until one imaginative classmate helps to brighten her day.

P CUMMING



Locker, Thomas. *Cloud Dance.*

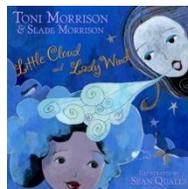
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010. Cloud Dance takes readers on a journey up to the heavens.

P LOCKER

Morrison, Toni. *Little Cloud and Lady Wind.*

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2010. "Inspired by the favorite Aesop story, *The bundle of sticks*" Little Cloud does not want to join the other clouds, scaring the earth with storms, but grows lonely and longs to look closer at mountains and seas, until Lady Wind makes her dream come true.

P MORRISON



Tomkins, Jasper. *Nimby: an extraordinary cloud who meets a remarkable friend.*

La Jolla, Calif. : Green Tiger Press, c1982. A playful cloud finally meets a friend with whom he can be himself.

P TOMPKINS

Rhymes

Sometimes I lie / in the grass, And I look at the clouds up high,
And I dream I am riding / a big white horse,
And I'm galloping over the sky.

Jill Eggleton

It's raining, it's raining,
There's pepper in the box,
And all the little ladies
Are holding up their frocks.

Traditional

I like to see a thunderstorm,
A dunder storm, A blunder storm,
I like to see it, black and slow,
Come tumbling down the hills.
A plunder storm, A wonder storm,
Roar loudly at out little house
And shake the window sills!

- Elizabeth Coatsworth