

Early Literacy Storytimes Burnham Memorial Library

Skill: Phonological awareness

I talked with the child care teachers about the early literacy skill of phonological awareness, the ability to hear and play with smaller sounds in words and told them I would be focusing story time on this skill.

I began with the song/rhyme Willaby Wallaby Woo and went around using each child's name (Willaby Wallaby Wegan, an elephant sat on Megan).

Aside: Replacing the beginning sound of words, in this case, names, helps children hear and play with smaller sounds in words.

We clapped everyone's name (clapping the syllables)

Books Read:

Sheep in a Jeep by Nancy Shaw

If You Give a Pig a Pancake by Laura Numeroff

Tog the Dog's Big Book by Colin and Jacqui Hawkins

Aside: Rhyming is one way children learn that words are made up of smaller parts. This book shows how the word changes (Tog to Dog) and the children can also guess the upcoming rhyme.

Mig the Pig's Big Book by Colin and Jacqui Hawkins

Tanka Tanka Skunk by Steve Webb (done with musical instruments played to the syllables within the rhyming text of the story)

Sang My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean-standing or sitting on each B sound

Aside: Singing to children allows them to hear words broken into parts. Here we emphasize the initial B sounds.

Again, left an Early Literacy Poster for the classroom.

I introduced each skill, talked with teachers and then children about the skills, then read and played music and did rhymes.

For next time, I hope to prepare a parent letter to go home with each child. I did receive parent feedback from parents that came to the library and had heard about my visit and reading and rhymes we shared.

Phonological Awareness was most successful. The children loved clapping the syllables of their names and the names of their classmates and teachers. They also loved singing each name in the Willaby Wallaby song and shaking eggs to Tanka Tanka Skunk. These were all fun ways to promote phonological awareness. Books and information supported this early literacy skill for their teachers.

