

Print Motivation

Opening song

Aside #1: You may not realize it, but simply by sharing books you and your child enjoy you are helping to develop your child's "print motivation", one of 6 basic early literacy skills that will help your child be ready to read later on.

Read ***Daisy Thinks She Is a Baby*** by Lisa Kopper. Encourage children to chime in for the repetitive line "But the real baby doesn't like that!" Have fun with the silliness of the story.

Act out the silly song "One Elephant Went Out To Play"

Aside #2: Young children love to hear the same book read over and over and over again. It's only natural that you'll get tired of reading it. But remember that children learn by repetition. Their brains NEED it. Try to find different ways to talk about the story to make it more interesting for you.

Read ***A Hat For Minerva Louise*** by Janet Morgan Stoeke. Have the children find what's silly on each page.

Craft project: Let children use their imagination to make silly hats from an assortment of materials.

Aside #3: This print motivation skill that we've been exploring today is actually more of an attitude – an interest in and enjoyment of books. Don't be tied down to rules about what to read or how long to read to your child each day. Follow her/his lead and have fun with books, using them as a jumping off place for imagination.