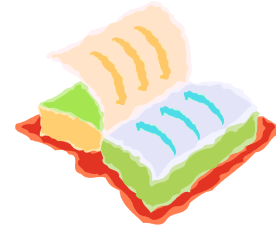


Introduction to the Little Books



The “little books” comes from my years in the classroom. I would like to share them with you month by month.

I learned that with so many other things to do, I could not think up neat things on the spur of the moment to do with the kids. I had to have stuff ready to go that: (1) built on their interest; (2) taught skills; and, (3) was fun to do.

If it did all that, I did it! Little books filled the bill marvelously.

So what’s in the book? Little books! They promote an interest in reading and learning about things. There are lots of topics and different rhyming poetry formats in the books. Most of the books rhyme because I wanted the children to hear the music of the words.

The topics are diverse: from recycling to colors to life cycles. There is a little book for most topics in the classroom. Many of the books are interactive. The children add-what’s-missing, for example; or, lift-the-flap, see something pop-up, or read a round book instead of a rectangular one (that’s always good for a smile). Many of the books teach a skill or concept, sometimes both



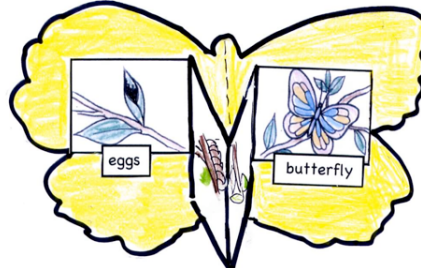
With the younger children (3 and 4 year olds), I would make one book for each child. We would sit in a small group and discuss each page, the illustrations, and the unusual way the book was put together. We “read” together. The children were so excited about seeing a different way to make a book. They were not ready to make books themselves but they loved the different kinds of books--especially they enjoyed the surprise of pop-up and lift-the-flap books. We sometimes would spend two or three days working with a book.

When we were done they took their books home to share with their parents.

The older children (5-7 years old) can make many of the books themselves. They enjoy putting them together and reading them.

I found that introducing the little books, and reading them, inspired the children to want to make their own books. They were delighted that they did not need tools and they enjoyed novelty of putting the books together.

The parents got so interested in the books the children brought home that I started sending home a master form with the book so they could make the book with their children. The parents and the children worked together to write and illustrate their own story. Many children brought their finished stories to school to share with the class. The books turned into an excellent school-to-home activity. If you do not make the books in class maybe you can send the home for work at home.



How to Use the Book of Little Books

Shop among the pages for the topic or skill you are working on; photocopy it. Color it, if you like, or have the children do it. After you copy it, put it together for the younger children. Allow the older children to make the books themselves. Each little book has step-by-step directions. You can make the books quickly because the steps are easy to follow. That is the part I think you'll like the most!

Materials

The materials needed vary with each book you make. Make sure you have on hand all the materials listed below:

- photocopies of the little books
- scissors
- glue
- staplers
- notebook rings
- rubber bands
- lunch bags
- construction paper
- string
- plastic baggies or containers for small pieces

Enjoy your bookmaking with the children!