



Blueprints for Success
Parent Workshop Materials
K-3rd Grade



Florida Department of Education
www.fldoe.org



Families Building Better Readers

K-3rd Grade Parent Workshop

Welcome

Thank you for attending this Families Building Better Readers workshop. We are so glad you are here! Get ready to have a fun-filled time while you learn valuable skills for helping your child become a better reader.

Introduction

FBBR is a collaborative effort between the Florida Department of Education's Just Read, Florida! initiative, the Bureau of Family and Community Outreach, and the University of West Florida.

Purposes

During this workshop you will:

- Learn the importance of consistent reading practice at home.
- Learn ten simple, quick, and effective activities that set your child up for successful reading practice.
- Learn how to build your child's confidence as a reader.
- Gain resources for helping your child practice reading at home.

Workshop Agenda

This workshop lasts about two and a half hours.

PRE-WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES (1/2 hour)
Sign-in Refreshments Meet-and-Greet
OPENING SESSION (1/2 hour)
Welcome "How to B-U-I-L-D a Better Reader" <i>Practice Makes Perfect</i> Blueprints
BREAKOUT SESSIONS (1 hour)
3 Sessions @ 20 min. each <i>Games Readers Play</i> Blueprints <i>Everyday Reading</i> Blueprints <i>You Are What You Read</i> Blueprints
WRAP-UP SESSION (1/2 hour)
Read-aloud Demonstration of <i>Sam's Sandwich</i> <i>Optional</i> -Children's Review/Revue Performance for Parents
POST-WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES
Concluding Remarks Door Prizes Workshop Evaluations Individual Q & A with District Reading Specialists

How to B-U-I-L-D a Better Reader

<u>B</u>e positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a positive “coach” when working with your child. A child learns best from a coach who is supportive and uncritical. Your child needs to hear you say, “You can do it!” • Always set your child up for success to build self-efficacy (personal belief that he or she is capable). This I-can attitude means your child is less likely to quit, even when learning proves difficult.
<u>U</u>nplug the television	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unplug the TV, the time is better spent reading • When your child does watch TV, turn on the closed caption option to develop concept of word/word identification. Encourage the viewing of quality educational programming to build knowledge base and vocabulary, both necessary for good comprehension
<u>I</u>ncrease time spent reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies show the average child spends only 5 minutes a day reading outside of school hours. That is not enough! • The single most important activity related to eventual success in reading is time spent reading- practice, practice, practice! • Can you dedicate <i>at least</i> 20 minutes per day to guide your child’s reading practice? That time adds up to over 100 hours a year, 100+ hours of practice with your one-on-one help will make a big difference in your child’s reading ability.
<u>L</u>earn new ways to give your child practice at home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep up the good things you are already doing to help your child in school such as helping with homework and reading books together daily! • We are here to meet your request to learn even more ways you can help your child. During this workshop you will learn ten simple yet effective strategies for helping your child practice reading at home. • Enjoy learning a poem with your child by Shel Silverstein called “Boa Constrictor” (from the book <i>Where the Sidewalk Ends</i>).
<u>D</u>ecide to be a partner with your child’s school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has a role to play and so you do. The school provides initial instruction. Your part is to give your child opportunities to practice what is learned in school at home. What does it take to become a good reader? Practice, practice, practice. • Your decision to make your child’s education a priority makes a big difference. There is a strong correlation between parent involvement and academic performance. Thank you for demonstrating your commitment to taking an active role in your child’s education by attending this workshop!

Workshop Follow-up and Support

- Need more help?
 - Contact your local school and/or district reading specialists:
 - Visit the FBBR website at <http://www.justreadflorida.com/fbbr.asp>
- Comments about FBBR?
 - Contact the FL Department of Education’s Bureau of Family and Community Outreach at (850)245-0847.
 - FBBR developer and Program Specialist, Dr. Angela Martin, at amartin@uwf.edu or 11000 University Parkway/Bldg. 85, Pensacola, FL 32514.
 - FBBR Children’s Trainer, Tricia Williams, at artwithtricia@aol.com .

Blueprints for Success

Practice Makes Perfect

1. Choosing the Right Book
2. Guiding Reading Practice

Games Readers Play

3. Ready, Set, Read!
4. Three Strikes—You Win
5. Word Mysteries

Everyday Reading

6. If You See It, Read It
7. Talk is Cheap and It Works

You Are What You Read

8. Books on a Shoestring Budget
9. Picky Readers Pick Best
10. Model Read Alouds

Practice Makes Perfect

...because reading is just like learning anything else,
it takes practice to get better.

Blueprints

1. **Choosing the Right Book**
2. **Guiding Reading Practice**

1. Choosing the Right Book

Goal

Choose books for reading practice that are on an appropriate level for your child.

Reading practice benefits children most when they read books that are not too easy or too hard, but are just right. This blueprint will give you a way for determining if a book is on the appropriate practice level for your child.

Activity Description

In this activity you and your child will test out potential texts for reading practice.

What You Need

- Books at varying levels of difficulty

What to Do

1. *Choose a book.* Pick one that you think will be “just right” for your child; a book your child will probably not find too easy or too difficult. You can ask your child’s teacher if you need suggestions.
2. *Listen to your child read.* Have your child read aloud a short passage from the book.
3. *Test accuracy rate.* Out of every ten words your child reads, count how many words are missed. Count a “miss” every time your child does not read a word correctly or takes longer than three seconds to get the word right.
 - If your child does not miss any words, that book is too easy for reading practice so test out another book that is more difficult.
 - If your child misses two, three, four, or more words out of every ten words read, that book is too hard for reading practice so test out another book that your child may find easier.
 - If your child misses no more than one out of every ten words read, you have successfully found a book that is “just right” for reading practice. Your child will be able to read 90% of the words accurately and easily.

2. Guiding Reading Practice

Goal

Help your child get the most out of reading practice.

Parents can help their children improve reading scores by offering consistent opportunities for good reading practice at home. This blueprint gives you some ideas for helping your child get the most out of the time he or she spends practicing reading.

Activity Description

In this activity you will use proven strategies to effectively guide your child's reading practice.

What You Need

- Books, magazines, textbooks, articles, etc., that are on the appropriate practice level for your child (see "Choosing the Right Book" blueprint).

What to Do

1. *Make reading practice an enjoyable thinking activity.* Get involved with the story as your child reads. Ask questions and react to story events. Summarize events periodically and seek predictions for what may happen next.
2. *Help your child with difficult words.* If your child is stuck on a word for more than three seconds, provide the word so your child can maintain the flow in reading. Letting your child struggle for a long time on a particular word interferes with his or her ability to understand the text. After you finish reading the book, you can look back at the words your child missed and review them or practice those words later using flashcards (see "Three Strikes—You Win" blueprint).
3. *Try taking turns.* Your child does not have to do all the reading. It is okay to take turns reading, especially if the story is long. Try these strategies:
 - Echo reading (you read a selection using proper expression and your child mimics you by reading it again).
 - Tap-off reading (each of you indicates when you want your turn to end by tapping the table).
4. *Make sure your child benefits from doing easy repeated readings.* This approach is just what it sounds like; the child reads the same easy book over and over again. Easy repeated readings help children speed up their reading rates, learn new sight words, and allow them to develop their abilities to read in a natural voice using more expression.

Games Readers Play

...because practicing reading should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for children.

Blueprints

3. Ready, Set, Read!
4. Three Strikes—You Win
5. Word Mysteries

3. Ready, Set, Read!

Goal

Help your child to read smoothly and at a steady pace.

Reading smoothly, accurately, and with expression is called fluency. Fluent readers can focus on the meaning of what they are reading because their mental energy is not distracted by having to decipher individual words.

Activity Description

In this activity you will time your child repeatedly reading the same short passage over several days. This activity gives your child a chance to learn from mistakes and pick up speed when reading. Your child will likely read the passage more quickly, smoothly, and accurately on each occasion he or she is timed. This builds your child's confidence as a reader and ultimately leads to the ability to concentrate less on individual words while reading and more on the meaning of the whole text.

What You Need

- A short reading passage from an appropriate level book (see “Choosing the Right Book” blueprint),
- A stopwatch or clock with a second hand, and
- A Ready, Set, Read! scoring sheet (included with this blueprint).

What to Do

1. *Select a passage.* The passage should not be too easy or too difficult for your child to read. As a general rule of thumb the selected passage should be long enough to take your child at least one minute to read it through the first time. A page from a chapter book may be a good choice in terms of length for a more advanced reader.
2. *Do one pre-reading of the passage.* Let your child read the passage to you once without being timed. Help him or her identify any unfamiliar words.

3. *Start the “reading race.”* Tell your child you are going to time him or her to see how quickly he or she can read the passage without making too many mistakes. The goal is only to do his or her personal best. Your child is not competing against anyone else.
4. *Remind your child to read “quickly but carefully”* and then start the race by announcing, "Ready, Set, Read!" Time how long (in seconds) it takes him or her to read the entire passage.
5. *Supply your child missed or unfamiliar words.* If your child makes a mistake or cannot read a word within three seconds, give your child that word so he or she can quickly move on. Keep a count of how many words were missed and review those missed words once the timing is over. Consider using those missed words for the flashcards you make for the “Three Strikes—You Win” blueprint.
6. *Determine the “score” by adding the number of words missed to the total number of seconds it took your child to read the passage.* Record that number on a Ready, Set, Read! scoring sheet (included with this blueprint).
7. *Have your child read the same passage again the next day.* Challenge your child to read the passage again even more quickly and carefully. Time and record the new (and most likely improved) score.
8. *Repeat this process up to five times using the same reading passage.* Do no more than two timed readings a day. When your child can read that passage smoothly, quickly, and with very few errors, you can select a different passage and begin a new series of timed readings.

Ready, Set, Read! Scoring Sheet

Readings	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Title of passage (<i>Sample</i>)					
Start Date 7/13	62/4 68	58/3 61	55/2 57	50/1 51	45/1 46

Readings	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Title of passage _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Start Date _____					

Readings	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Title of passage _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Start Date _____					

Readings	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Title of passage _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Start Date _____					

Readings	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Title of passage _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Start Date _____					

Readings	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Title of passage _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Start Date _____					

Readings	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Title of passage _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Start Date _____					

4. Three Strikes—You Win

Goal

Increase the number of sight words your child can read quickly and easily.

Sight words are ones that you see very frequently when reading (such as the words “the”, “because”, or “want”). When a child knows a word by "sight," it means he or she can read that word quickly and without having to sound it out. Knowing a lot of sight words allows your child to read smoothly and evenly so he or she can focus on reading for understanding rather than struggling to figure out individual words.

Activity Description

In this activity you will be making and using flash cards to help your child learn sight words through a motivational game. Flash cards can also be used to help your child commit vocabulary words, spelling words, math facts, and other such items to memory.

What You Need

- Blank index cards
- Marker
- Word list appropriate for your child
- Pre-printed flash card set (we’ve included this set to get you started)

What to Do

1. *Start with a list of words that your child needs to work on* (seek a list from his or her teacher, use words found in the sight word list included with this blueprint, or use words you noted your child needs to work on when doing other FBBR activities).
2. *Print each word on a separate index card* in a way so it resembles book print.
3. *Tell your child you will be playing a game called, “Three Strikes—You Win”.* Unlike baseball, in this game when a player gets three strikes, the player is a winner. Every time your child reads a word correctly, you will put a strike (an “x”) on the back of that word card. Once a word card has three strikes, your child wins that card, and it is removed from the deck.

(Continues on next page.)

4. *Hold a stack of cards up to your child.* Don't make the stack too thick or it may overwhelm your child (rule of thumb- child should be able to go through entire stack in just a few minutes). Ask your child to read the word that faces him or her.
 - a. If your child can't read the word, help him or her sound it out. Move the card to the back of the stack.
 - b. If your child reads the word, but does so with difficulty (i.e. takes longer than three seconds), praise him or her for the success and move the card to the back of the stack.
 - c. If your child reads the word quickly and easily, mark a small "x" on the back of the card. Tell your child that is "one strike" and when he or she needs two more strikes to win.
5. *Continue working with your flash card deck in this manner.* When you are finished going through the entire deck, go back through the word cards that your child missed and have him or her spell each out to you.
6. *You can go through the card deck several times a day, but mark an "x" only once per day.*
7. *When a word card gets three "strikes" on the back, celebrate.* Remove that card from the deck and replace it with a new and different word card from your list.

always

around

because

been

before

best

both

buy

call

cold

does

don't

fast

first

five

found

gave

goes

green

its

made

many

or

off

these

those

upon

us

use

very

which

why

work

wish

would

write

your

about

better

bring

Sight Word List

Sight words are the most common words found in texts. If your child memorizes these words, it saves him or her the time it would take to sound them out when reading. In addition, some of these words cannot be sounded out because they do not follow the usual rules. These words should be memorized as sight words.

Pre-Primer	Primer	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
a	all	after	always	about
and	am	again	around	better
away	are	an	because	bring
big	at	any	been	carry
blue	ate	as	before	clean
can	be	ask	best	cut
come	black	by	both	done
down	brown	could	buy	draw
find	but	every	call	drink
for	came	fly	cold	eight
funny	did	from	does	fall
go	do	give	don't	far
help	eat	going	fast	full
here	four	had	first	got
I	get	has	five	grow
in	good	her	found	hold
is	have	him	gave	hot
it	he	his	goes	hurt
jump	into	how	green	if
little	like	just	its	keep
look	must	know	made	kind
make	new	let	many	laugh
me	no	live	or	long
my	now	may	off	light
not	on	of	pull	much
one	our	old	read	myself
play	out	once	right	show
red	please	open	sing	six
run	pretty	over	sit	start
said	ran	put	sleep	ten
see	ride	round	tell	today
the	saw	some	their	together
three	say	stop	these	try
to	she	take	those	warm
two	so	thank	upon	never
up	soon	them	us	only
we	that	then	use	own
where	there	think	very	pick
you	they	walk	which	seven
	this	were	why	shall
	too	when	work	show
	under		wish	small
	want		would	white
	was		write	who
	well		your	will
	went			with
	what			yellow

5. Word Mysteries

Goal

Help your child understand the relationship between the sounds of spoken language and the letters that represent those sounds in writing.

When a child has a good grasp of the way letters go together to make different sounds in words, he or she can spell and sound out unfamiliar words more accurately.

Activity Description

In this activity you will give your child sound clues to determine what object you have hidden.

What You Need

- Interesting object(s) to hide
- Paper and pencil

What to Do

1. *Find an interesting object to share* (calculator, prism, magnet, feather, seashell, etc.).
2. *Hide the object nearby.*
3. *Tell your child you will be playing a game together like "Hide and Seek" called "Word Mysteries."* When he or she figures out the name of the hidden object based on clues you give, your child gets to seek and find the object.
4. *Tell your child the first sound in the name of the object.* Give one sound (like *b*) or one sound unit (like *th*) at a time. Make sure you do not add sounds on the ends of letter sounds that aren't there (e.g., saying *buh* instead of simply *b*). Have your child guess what the hidden object could be using your first clue.
5. *Once the guess is made, ask what sound should be next if the guess is correct.* Try exaggerating the sounds by singing out the word so your child can hear individual sounds more easily.
6. *Next, write the correct letter(s) for the next sound in the word.* If the correct letter(s) matches your child's guess, move on to the next letter. If it doesn't match his guess, ask for a new guess of what the word might be and test the next sound in the new guess.
7. *Follow this process until the entire word is spelled-out* then let your child seek the object. Talk together about the object and what makes it interesting (see "Talk is Cheap and It Works" blueprint for ideas).

Here is one example of playing this game:

- a. "I'm going to write the letter that makes the first sound you hear in the name of the hidden object."

p

- b. "What might the word be? (Child says "painting.") If the word is painting, what is the next sound you hear in that word after the *p* sound?" (Child makes the long *a* sound.) "That's right. So I should write the letters *ai* next IF the word is painting. (Notice that the *a* and *i* were presented together because those two letters make the next sound together.)"

pr

- c. "I did not write *ai*, instead I added an *r*, so the hidden object cannot be a painting. What might the object be now that you know the first two sounds are *pr*?" (Child says "present.") "If the object I have hidden is a present, what would the next sound be?" (Child makes a short *e* sound.) "Okay, so if the object is a present, I'll need to write an *e*, let's test that one out."

pri

- d. "Since I did not add an *e* we now know the object cannot be a *present*."
- e. (Continue in this way until the word *prism* is completely spelled out.) "You've figured out the hidden object is a prism. I'll give you the clues of "hot" and "cold" to help you find it." (Child finds the prism.) "Let's take a closer look. See how the prism reflects all the colors of the rainbow when I hold it up to the light?" (Continue conversation about the object.)

prism

Everyday Reading

...because words are powerful tools.

Blueprints

6. If You See It, Read It
7. Talk is Cheap and It Works

6. If You See It, Read It

Goal

Give your child practice reading using real-world texts.

Good reading material for children can be found in other places besides just books. In fact, much of the reading we do each day in the real world is not from books at all. Opportunities for your child to use reading for real-world purposes can be found in abundance during your daily routines and will motivate your child to do well in school.

Activity Description

In this activity your child will practice reading material other than books and textbooks. Think of all the things you often read during any given day (a phonebook, recipe, advertisement, letter from a friend, food label, TV guide, road signs, etc.). When your child reads these same things in search of useful information, he or she gains an appreciation of the connection between school and the real world.

What You Need

- Print you often see and use in your daily life, such as a newspaper, magazine, menu, cereal box, phonebook, etc.

What to Do

As you go through your day together, "assign" your child real-world reading tasks. You may have to show your child how to find the information he or she is seeking at first, but soon your child will be able to do it independently. Below are a few ideas, but the possibilities for finding and using everyday reading materials for practice are practically endless.

1. What is right in front of your child's nose most mornings? A cereal box. What are the ingredients? How many ounces are in a serving? Ask your child to read and find out. Read directions to fill out the mail-in forms for any free prizes offered.
2. What is black and white and "read" all over? A newspaper! Give your child real purposes for reading out of the newspaper.

- Does he or she want to see a movie? Have him or her read the movie listings, and then find and select a time you might attend.
 - Big ball game this weekend? Have your child check the weather forecast.
 - What's on television tonight? Read the TV Guide to find out.
 - You'll both find the comic strips or funny pages entertaining reading. Read them together.
 - Be a role model for your child by reading things like the newspaper in front of him or her.
3. What's good to eat at your local drive thru? Give your child a budget, read the menu, and order the "best deal."
 4. Want to order a pizza? It's only a phone call away. Ask your child to find the number in the phonebook.
 5. Have your child write and mail a letter to a friend or relative. Watch as he or she opens the reply letter and reads it enthusiastically.
 6. Time for dinner? Have your child read the recipe aloud as you follow the directions. Or try letting your child follow the sequential directions on his or her own to make cookies or something else yummy from an easy box mix.
 7. Don't forget a nightly bedtime story...a memory your child will treasure forever.

7. Talk is Cheap and It Works

Goal

Build your child's knowledge base and vocabulary through rich conversation.

To be able to read and understand a word in a sentence it is helpful if a child has heard that word before and has some notion of what it means. Children most often pick up words like this through conversations they have had with adults.

Activity Description

In this activity you will engage your child in rich conversation.

What You Need

- Topics, events, objects, stories, ideas, feelings to discuss

What to Do

Spend quality time conversing with your child everyday. You can easily do this while you are going about your daily routines. Try the following strategies:

1. *Eat dinner as a family.* Research reveals that children who sit down at the dinner table with their families are better readers than those that don't. What's going on at the dinner table? Conversation. Children who regularly converse with adults are exposed to tens of thousands of more words per year than those who don't.
2. *When conversing with your child try the following strategies:*
 - a. *Expand on your child's statements.*
Child says, "Want juice." You rephrase and respond using more developed sentence structure, "Yes, you would like to drink some apple juice."
 - b. *Describe what you are doing.* When talking with younger children, think of yourself as Howard Cosell, giving a play-by-play of the activities you are doing.
"You are stacking the blocks. You made a tower. Oh the tower tumbled down."
 - c. *Describe things you see.* Tell what you know/understand.
"Look at this tiny roly-poly. See how he balls itself up for protection?"
 - d. *Use vivid words for descriptions.*
"This sugared candy is tangy but sweet."
 - e. *Expose your child to correct terminology.*
"Can you see the antennae on top of this insect's head?"
"Watch my measuring tape retract when I press this button."
 - f. *Ask questions that require your child to think deeply.*
"How do you think a butterfly is like a growing child?"
3. *Don't feel bad if you don't know all the answers to your child's questions.*
"I'm not sure why rainbows have different colors, let's find a book to learn more about that together."

You Are What You Read

...because good readers are better learners.

Blueprints

8. Books on a Shoestring Budget

9. Picky Readers Pick Best

10. Model Read Alouds

8. Books on a Shoestring Budget

Goal

Find inexpensive and free reading materials for practice.

The idea of purchasing books for your child's home library is wonderful but can also prove expensive. There are many places you can go to find inexpensive and free books and magazines to stock your child's book shelf without breaking the bank.

Activity Description

In this activity you will gain the resources and skills for finding good affordable literature.

What You Need

- A library card, classified section of newspaper, phone numbers of offices, book club flyers, etc.

What to Do

There are many places you can go for inexpensive and free reading material. Try the following suggestions:

1. *Apply for a library card at your local library.* This is your "homework" for this workshop-- Call your local library and fill in the following information:
 - a. Where are the nearest libraries to me?
 - b. How do I apply for a library card so that I can check out free books?
 - c. What days and times does the library offer a story hour or other special programs for my child?
 - d. Who can I contact for more information about the library? What is his or her phone number?

2. *Search for yard sales in the classified section of your newspaper that include children's books.* You can often pick up good books at very reasonable prices.
3. *Purchase books at used book stores.*
4. *Ask local professional offices for their "old" magazines..* Call and ask what they do with outdated magazines in their waiting rooms. Explain you are looking for good reading material for your child and offer to pick up their unwanted magazines when it is convenient.
5. *Consider purchasing books from the different book club flyers sent home by your child's teacher.* The prices for books offered in these flyers are typically much lower than what you will find them for in book stores. Ask relatives to purchase a book instead of a toy next time they want to give your child a gift. The gift of reading lasts a lifetime while toys often end up in the bottom of a closet.
6. What are some of your own ideas for finding free and inexpensive reading materials?

9. Picky Readers Pick Best

Goal

Learn how to select high-interest reading material to motivate even the most reluctant readers.

It is sometimes difficult to motivate children to practice reading. When you make sure your child has reading material available on topics he or she especially enjoys, wanting to practice reading becomes a given.

Activity Description

In this activity you will determine your child's specific interests by asking a series of questions. You will also take notes about books presented that you think may interest your child.

What You Need

- List of questions (included in blueprint)
- Books of high-interest to your child

What to Do

1. *Ask your child the questions listed below.*
2. *Use his or her answers to help you select books that he or she will find the most appealing.*
3. *Periodically ask the same set of questions again to see if his or her areas of interest have changed. If they have, find new reading materials to match your child's ever-changing new interests.*
 - What do you know a lot about?
 - What do you want to learn more about?
 - What kinds of books or magazines or other reading material do you enjoy reading most? Why?
 - If you could choose only three books from the library what would they be about? Why those topics?
 - What book topics do you least enjoy? Why?
4. *Use the space below to make notes about books presented during this workshop and from the recommended book list included in your materials that you think may interest your child:*

10. Model Read Alouds

Goal

Learn how to model for children what effective readers do through interactive read alouds.

The National Reading Panel stated that the single best predictor of children's eventual success in reading is how often their parents read to them. Children learn a lot about what effective readers do from watching and listening to adults read to and with them.

Activity Description

In this activity you will model the following things that effective readers do while reading aloud to your child: Good readers actively think about what they read, they sometimes pause to summarize what they have read, ask themselves questions, make predictions, and test those predictions as they read further along. They also read with expression and use their imaginations to make storylines more vivid.

What You Need

- Appealing non-fiction and fiction books that can be on a higher level than your child can read alone

What to Do

1. *Select a good book* from the recommended booklists included in these materials or by asking your librarian or your child's teacher for a suggestion. Preview the book ahead of time so you can plan how you will make the reading interactive.
2. *Talk about what you will be reading before you begin the book.*
3. *Introduce the book by reading the title and author's name.* Note details about the cover illustration. Ask your child to predict what the story might be about based on the title and picture.
4. *Read the book at a fairly quick pace using a lot of expression.* For example, when the story becomes serious, slow down and read thoughtfully. When something funny happens, laugh. Make up interesting voices for each of the characters.
5. *Explain unfamiliar words.* When you come across a word your child may not know, pause briefly to explain. Challenge your child to use the pictures on the page or other words in the surrounding sentence(s) to figure out what the word may mean.
6. *Help your child connect to the story.* Point out interests, characteristics, or feelings he or she may share with the characters.

7. *Do stop and ask questions, but don't go overboard.* Use places in the story where there is a natural pause to stop and ask your child questions that will guide him or her toward understanding. Point out clues that can be used from what you've read so far that might be helpful in making predictions (not guesses).
8. *Ask your child to participate in the reading in some way.* You may ask him or her to do things like read a certain character's lines or read all the repetitive parts of the story (e.g., word phrases that occur again and again such as, "Run, run as fast as you can... you can't catch me I'm the Gingerbread Man!").
9. *After you have finished the story, review.* Flip back through the pages and talk about what you read together. Talk about interesting things you learned or questions your child may have or ones that are left unanswered by the author. Give your child the opportunity to retell the story or parts of the story using his or her own words.
10. *Extend the reading experience.* Relate the reading to your daily lives in some way. You might cook food related to the story, talk with someone who knows more about the subject, do a related art project, or write a pretend letter to one of the characters.

BOOKS TO BUILD ON: TODDLERS

Read to your toddler everyday. Doing so will help your child develop concepts that he or she will need in order to begin reading in the next few years. Toddlers enjoy and benefit from reading their favorite books over and over again. This age child favors brightly colored books with big simple pictures. Books about objects they recognize, those with songs or funny sounds, those that ask them to join in by doing motions and those with repetitive words and phrases are real favorites for children in this age group.

FICTION*

Ballard, Robin

My Day, Your Day

Children have a busy time at a childcare center while their parents are busy at work. They are happily reunited at the end of the day.

Barner, Bob

Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!

Colorful and amusing, this first book about bugs will fascinate toddlers.

Barton, Byron

My Car

Very simple sentences and colorful illustrations make an appealing introduction to this familiar vehicle.

Blackstone, Stella

Bear On a Bike

Bear and his friend use a variety of vehicles to travel many places in this colorful, rhyming story.

Blackstone, Stella

Bear's Busy Family

Witty illustrations that are large and bright capture bear's busy family as they prepare a feast for baby bear's birthday.

Blomgren, Jennifer

Where Do I Sleep? A Pacific Northwest Lullaby

This Pacific Northwest lullaby shows a variety of animals settling down to sleep.

Bloom, Suzanne

The Bus for Us

On the first day of school, several vehicles confuse Tess before the school bus finally arrives.

Corey, Dorothy

You Go Away

Repetition of the words "You go away, you come back" gives parents and caregivers a reassuring way to talk to toddlers about separation.

Edwards, Pamela Duncan

Wake-Up Kisses

The sun is gone, and the moon is bright. It's time for the nighttime animals to wake up. Subdued colors and rhyming text introduce animals that are awake while we sleep.

Frampton, David

The Whole Night Through: A Lullaby

A rowdy little leopard rambles through a sleepy nighttime jungle. Exotic woodcuts in brilliant purples, greens, and yellows set a dramatic tone.

George, Kristine

Book!

Alive with glowing colors and simple rhyming text, a young child encounters his first book. This vibrant celebration welcomes toddlers to the joy of reading.

Harris, Pamela

Hot, Cold, Shy, Bold

Opposites are depicted in large photographs of children and adults

Hindley, Judy

Eyes, Nose, Fingers, and Toes

Toddlers demonstrate what they can do with their eyes, ears, legs, feet, and everything in between in this joyful, rhyming romp.

Hort, Lenny

The Seals on the Bus

Animals hop on board the big, purple bus amid raucous sounds - errps, roars, hisses, and honks in this noisy, funny twist on an old favorite song. Hop on board!

Hubbell, Patricia

Sea, Sand, Me!

A child enjoys a day at the beach - digging in the sand, dancing in the water, playing with a friend, and bouncing beach balls. Sun-bleached pastel washes portray a perfect beach day.

Katz, Karen

Counting Kisses

A fussy baby receives ten little kisses and tears soon give way to smiles and giggles as the baby falls asleep. This warm, joyful counting book has big, bold collage illustrations.

Lewis, Kevin

Chugga-Chugga Choo-Choo

This colorful, rhyming story about a freight train's day starts with loading the freight in the morning and ends when the train returns to the roundhouse at day's end.

Lin, Grace

Dim Sum for Everyone!

On a visit to a bustling dim sum restaurant, a family picks their favorites - dumplings, cakes, buns and tarts. This story celebrates a Chinese cultural custom, and everyone shares in the fun.

Miller, Margaret

Big and Little

Photographs and easy text introduce size and opposites.

Nakamura, Katherine

Song of Night: It's Time to Go to Bed

It's time to go to bed, and each animal has a ritual to get ready, aided by a loving parent. The rhyming text and amusing illustrations are a bedtime treat.

Numeroff, Laura

What Mommies Do Best, What Daddies Do Best

Mommies and daddies do lots of special things to show their love. Two stories are rolled into one and each tale is filled with a soothing, comforting view of the many ways parents love their children.

Spinelli, Eileen

Night Shift Daddy

As night arrives, a daddy and his daughter share a bedtime ritual before daddy is off to work. This loving story, painted with dark tones, richly portrays the special bond between a little girl and her father.

Thong, Roseanne

Red Is a Dragon: A Book of Colors

Illustrations explode with vibrant color and varied patterns in this concept book offering a peek at Chinese American culture.

Whippo, Walt

Little White Duck

Bold and lively, this classic sing-along is sure to have everyone chanting with a duck that quacks, a bug that buzzes, a snake that hisses, and a frog that glugs.

Yolen, Jane

How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?

Large, colorful dinosaurs try every trick in the book to postpone bedtime in this rhyming story. Children will laugh as human parents put these large beasts to bed.

NON-FICTION*

Calmenson, Stephanie

Good for You! Toddler Rhymes for Toddler Times

Lively poems illustrate all the things a toddler can do.

Lee, Huy Voun

1, 2, 3, Go!

Simple Chinese characters and cut-paper collage introduce the numbers one through ten.

MacDonald, Margaret Read

Fat Cat

Cat has a voracious appetite, especially for anyone who dares to call him fat, in this Danish folktale. Large, bright illustrations add to the amusing drama of this expanding cat.

BOOKS TO BUILD ON: PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Pre-school and kindergarten children are naturally very curious about the world around them. They express boundless energy to learn about most everything! They especially enjoy stories that are silly and imaginative and those about people and places in the community such as firefighters and firehouses. Some children in this age group will begin to read if read to often everyday.

Fiction*

Brett, Jan

Daisy Comes Home

Daisy, an unhappy hen in China, floats down the river in a basket and has a wonderful adventure.

Cuyler, Margery

100th Day Worries

Jessica worries about collecting 100 objects to take to class for the 100th day of school.

Dorros, Arthur

Abuela

While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over the sights of New York City.

Falconer, Ian

Olivia Saves the Circus

Olivia brags on her summer vacation and how she saved the day at the circus, becoming Olivia the Tattooed Lady and more.

Feiffer, Jules

Bark, George

George is a dog who makes many different animal sounds when his mother asks him to bark. George and his mother go to see the veterinarian, who finds the source of the problem.

Graham, Bob

Let's Get a Pup! Said Kate

When Kate and her parents visit the animal shelter, an adorable puppy charms them, but it is very hard to leave an older dog behind.

Hoffman, Mary

Amazing Grace

Kids at school tell Grace she cannot be Peter Pan in the school play because she is a girl and black, but their negativity makes Grace more determined than ever to play the part of Peter.

Jenkins, Emily

Five Creatures

In words and pictures, a girl describes the three humans and two cats that live in her house, and details some of the traits that they share.

Kvasnosky, Laura

Zelda and Ivy

Ivy, the younger of two fox sisters, goes along with her older sister's schemes, even when it seems Ivy ends up the loser.

Lum, Kate

What! Cried Granny: An Almost Bedtime Story

When her grandson, Patrick, arrives for his first sleepover, Granny's resourceful efforts to provide him with a bed, pillow, and other necessities result in a sleepless night for both of them.

MacDonald, Margaret Read

Pickin' Peas

Capturing the pesky rabbit that is harvesting her peas does not ensure that Little Girl will keep him out of her garden for good.

Mollel, Tololwa

My Rows and Piles of Coins

A Tanzanian boy saves his coins to buy a bicycle so that he can help his parents carry goods to market, but then he discovers that in spite of all he has saved, he still does not have enough money.

Ormerod, Jan

Ms. MacDonald Has a Class

After visiting the farm, the children in Ms. MacDonald's class learn to move, look and sound different while preparing to present the performance of a lifetime.

Ringgold, Faith

Tar Beach

A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family. Based on the author's quilt painting of the same name.

Ryan, Pam Munoz

Mice and Beans

Rosa Maria prepares for her granddaughter's birthday party, unaware that the mice in the house plan a party of their own.

Root, Phyllis

Rattletrap Car

Various disasters threaten to stop Poppa and the children from getting to the lake in their rattletrap car, but they manage to come up with an ingenious solution to each problem.

Shannon, David

David Goes to School

David's activities in school include chewing gum, talking out of turn, and engaging in a food fight, causing his teacher to say over and over, "No, David!"

Skorpen, Liesel Moak

We Were Tired of Living in a House

Four children, a cat, and a dog move to a tree, a raft, a cave, and finally the seashore, enjoying each new dwelling until they discover its drawbacks.

Soto, Gary

If the Shoe Fits

After being teased about his brand new loafers, Rigo puts them away for so long he grows out of them.

Tarpley, Natasha Anastasia

Bippity Bop Barbershop

A story celebrating a young African American boy's first trip to the barbershop.

Wells, Rosemary

Yoko's Paper Cranes

When Yoko moves from Japan to California, she decides to make and send origami swans to her grandmother for her birthday.

Wiesner, David

The Three Pigs

The three pigs escape the wolf by going into another world where they meet the cat and the fiddle, the cow that jumped over the moon, and a dragon.

Wilson, Karma

Bear Snores On

On a cold winter night many animals gather to party in the cave of a sleeping bear, who then awakes and protests that he has missed the food and the fun.

Wong, Janet

Buzz

As Mommy and Daddy begin their day and get ready for work, a child observes the morning routine inside the house as well as the buzzing of a busy bee outside the window.

NON-FICTION*

Ehlert, Lois

Waiting for Wings

Simple, rhyming text follows the life cycles of four common butterflies from their beginnings as tiny eggs to their transformations into butterflies.

Florian, Douglas

Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs: Poems and Paintings

A collection of humorous poems about such reptiles and amphibians as the glass frog, the gecko, and the rattlesnake.

McDermott, Gerald

Zomo the Rabbit: A Trickster Tale from West Africa

Zomo the Rabbit, an African trickster, sets out to gain wisdom.

BOOKS TO BUILD ON: GRADES 1 & 2

Most first and second graders are learning to read independently. They are enthusiastic about using their newly developed reading skills to find out more about their world. This age group especially enjoys funny stories and folktales. Children in the primary grades benefit a lot from listening to adults read to them. This is because they pick up strategies that effective readers use from seeing those strategies modeled by adult readers. Try taking turns sometimes when reading to first and second graders. They enjoy and learn from the shared experience.

Book highlighted during Families Building Better Readers workshop:

Pelham, David

Sam's Sandwich

Sam makes his sister a sandwich. His sister Samantha offers him a bite, but Sam knows something Samantha doesn't know; he's put some unusual ingredients inside. Do you think Sam will take a bite?

FICTION*

Bang-Campbell, Monika

Little Rat Sets Sail

Little Rat is very nervous about learning to sail, but she succeeds by taking small risks and following the gentle instructions of Buzzy Bear.

Browne, Anthony

Willy's Pictures

Willy the Chimp loves to paint, and he knows that every picture tells a story. Learn about some masterpieces while enjoying Willy's interpretations of "Mona Lisa," "The Gleaners," and other famous works of art.

Child, Lauren

What Planet Are You From, Clarice Bean?

Clarice must do a school project on the environment, so she and her family become eco-warriors in an attempt to save an old tree on their street.

Choi, Yangsook

The Name Jar

When Korean-born Unhei is teased about her name on the first day of school in the United States, she decides to pick an American name from a jar her classmates fill with suggestions.

Cowley, Joy

Agapanthus Hum and Major Bark

When plucky Agapanthus Hum and her whizzy puppy, Major Bark, enter the dog show, they come away with a surprising result that will satisfy underdogs everywhere.

Cuyler, Margery

That's Good! That's Bad! in the Grand Canyon

While on vacation with his grandmother in the Grand Canyon, a boy has many adventures: some good and some bad.

Eastman, P. D.

Sam and the Firefly

The classic story of Sam, the Owl, and his word-loving friend, Gus, the Firefly, still entertains young readers with its humor and message about the power of language.

Gantos, Jack

Practice Makes Perfect: A Rotten Ralph Reader

Fans of Rotten Ralph will enjoy this short chapter book about the importance of playing fair and being a true friend.

Inches, Alison

Corduroy's Hike

Corduroy, the toy bear, sneaks into Lisa's backpack when she goes on a hiking trip and has quite an adventure when he gets lost along the way.

Martin, David

Monkey Business

Monkey bakes a cake for mother, hides in the garbage, loses a tooth, and wraps himself up like a mummy in these amusing stories for brand new readers.

Mills, Claudia

Gus and Grandpa and Show-and-Tell

Gus can't decide what to take to school for show-and-tell until Grandpa reveals a talent that he's willing to share with Gus's class.

Parish, Herman

Bravo, Amelia Bedelia!

From the time she is sent to pick up the guest conductor to the final bow by the orchestra, Amelia Bedelia's confusion causes quite an uproar at the school concert.

Ryan, Pam Munoz

Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride

Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt take each other for a spin one brisk and cloudless evening in 1933.

Various Authors,

Silly Stories to Tickle Your Funny Bone

This gaggle of short stories and poems are written by some of the best-loved children's writers and will make young readers giggle.

Simms, Laura

Rotten Teeth

When Melissa brings a glass bottle full of rotten teeth from her father's dental office to school for Show and Tell, she becomes a first grade celebrity.

Various Authors,

Sports Stories You'll Have a Ball With

This team of stories and poems in the Reading Rainbow Readers series will be a hit with children learning to read independently.

Wells, Rosemary

Wingwalker

During the Depression, Reuben's father takes a job as a carnival wingwalker, and Reuben overcomes his fear of flying.

Woodson, Jacqueline

The Other Side

Two girls, one black and one white, gradually get to know each other as they sit on the fence that divides their town.

Suen, Anastasia

The Clubhouse Loose Tooth

Readers will recognize Peter, Willie, Amy and friends from the picture books of Ezra Jack Keats whose school and neighborhood adventures are featured in this series.

Weeks, Sarah

Drip, Drop

Poor Pip Squeak springs many leaks in his roof as he tries to sleep during a rainstorm in this beginning reader.

NON-FICTION*

Argueta, Jorge

A Movie in My Pillow / Una Pelicula en Mi Almohada

Young Jorgito has come to live in the Mission District of San Francisco but fondly recalls his native El Salvador in this bilingual collection of poems.

Chaikin, Miriam

Don't Step on the Sky: A Handful of Haiku

These playful poems, written in the haiku tradition, capture the wonder and beauty of nature from morning till night.

Guiberson, Brenda

The Emperor Lays an Egg

Follow the life cycle of the emperor penguin as it grows from egg to chick and maturity in the middle of the coldest place on Earth, Antarctica.

Hayes, Joe

Estrellita de Oro / Little Gold Star: A Cinderella Cuento

Arcia and her cruel stepsisters encounter a magic hawk that changes them in ways that affect their meeting with the prince.

Kerley, Barbara

The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins

Until Waterhouse Hawkins began creating models of dinosaurs, very few people in the world could imagine what they looked like.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis

Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuoso

Scat Cat Monroe narrates this picture book biography of Ella Fitzgerald whose rich voice and vocal innovations brought her international acclaim.

Rockwell, Anne

Becoming Butterflies

Young students observe the stages caterpillars go through to become butterflies after their teacher brings some into the classroom.

Swados, Elizabeth

Hey You! C'mere: A Poetry Slam

There's poetry in the slurp of spaghetti, the open fire hydrant on a hot summer day, the too-tight hug from Aunt Evelyn, and much more in this rappin', rhymin' celebration of city life.

Wick, Walter

Can You See What I See? Picture Puzzles to Search and Solve

Walter Wick, photographer of the popular I Spy series, has created another picture book with plenty of puzzling possibilities.

Winter, Jonah

Frida

Stunning illustrations and spare text introduce young readers to Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo, whose difficult childhood inspired her painting.

Books to Build On: Grades 3 & 4

Third- and fourth-graders are transitioning from learning to read to reading to learn. They enjoy seeking information from nonfiction books about people and the things they do. Non-fiction books with outrageous characters are also real favorites. To encourage reading as a recreational activity, provide a variety of reading materials that are of high-interest to your child including magazines, newspapers and books.

FICTION

Celenza, Anna Hartwell

Farewell Symphony

Hayden creates a symphony that finally causes Prince Nicholas to leave his summer palace and allow his staff - including the musicians - to return home.

Cornelison, Cornelia

Soft Rain: A Story of the Cherokee Trail of Tears

The terror experienced by Soft Rain, a nine-year-old Cherokee girl, is depicted in this story about the Trail of Tears, the forced dislocation of Cherokee people in 1838.

Dicamillo, Kate

Because of Winn Dixie

Winn Dixie, India Opal's dog, brings solace and helps her make friends in her new hometown.

Eager, Edward

Half Magic

Four children have extraordinary adventures after they find an ordinary coin that is half magic.

Ellis, Deborah

The Breadwinner

At the height of Taliban rule, Parvana's father is arrested so she must dress like a boy and become the family breadwinner.

Erickson, John R.

Hank the Cowdog (series)

Hank, the head of ranch security, and his animal and human friends get into all sorts of trouble and have lots of fun.

Estes, Eleanor

The Hundred Dresses

Wanda tells scornful classmates that she has 100 dresses at home and they learn too late that she was telling the truth.

Hamilton, Virginia

Bluish

Natalie is nicknamed Bluish because her skin is slightly blue from chemotherapy. She becomes friends with Dreenie and Tuli who reach beyond their discomfort with her illness to offer her compassion and love.

Hesse, Karen

Just Juice

Juice is from a poor family, and neither she nor her father can read, but when Juice's diabetic mother is about to give birth, Juice must learn to read her mother's sugar levels.

Hill, Kirkpatrick

The Year of Miss Agnes

Fredericka and her friends grow with Miss Agnes, a teacher at the one room schoolhouse in Alaska, over the course of a year.

Howe, Deborah

Bunnacula: A Rabbit Tale Mystery

When a new pet rabbit is introduced into the family, Chester, the cat, thinks it may be a vampire.

MacDonald, Amy

No More Nice

Eleven-year-old Simon is sent to spend spring vacation with his eccentric great aunt who teaches him to think for himself. The sequel is No More Nasty.

Moore, Lorrie

The Forgotten Helper: A Christmas Story

Aben, an elf in Santa's workshop is demoted and left behind at the last house on Santa's rounds. He must find a way to make the girl of the house behave so he can get picked up by Santa again next year.

Morgenstern, Susie

A Book of Coupons

An unconventional teacher gives coupon books for such things as dancing in class and sleeping late, which conflicts with the principal's ideas.

Peck, Robert Newton

Soup

The adventures and misadventures of two boys growing up in a small Vermont town.

Spinelli, Eileen

Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch

Mr. Hatch works in a shoelace factory and eats by himself everyday until a Valentine box of candy arrives with a card that reads, "Somebody Loves You."

Spires, Elizabeth

The Mouse of Amherst

Emmaline the mouse comes to live in Emily Dickinson's bedroom, reads some of her poetry, and then writes her own poems in response.

Taha, Karen

A Gift for Tia Rosa

Little Carmela is close to her elderly neighbor and saddened by her illness and death, but she finds a way to express her love when Tia Rosa's grandchild is born.

NON-FICTION

Lincoln, Margarete

The Pirate's Handbook

What does a well-dressed pirate wear and what does he eat? Recipes and craft ideas are included.

Martin, Jacqueline

Snowflake Bently

Wilson Bentley devoted his life to the study of snowflakes, teaching himself photography and capturing the beauty of the snowflake on film.

Mochizuke, Ken

Passage to Freedom: The Sugihara Story

Chiune Sugihara, Japanese consul in Lithuania, saved the lives of hundreds of Polish Jews by defying his government and placing his own family in danger.

Schanze, Rosalyn

How We Crossed the West: The Adventures of Lewis and Clark

The Lewis and Clark expedition encountered many obstacles while in search of a water route to the Pacific Ocean.

Seattle, Chief

Brother Eagle, Sister Sky

Extraordinary paintings of Plains Indian life are paired with a retelling of the powerful environmental speech by Chief Seattle.

Solheim, James

It's Disgusting - And We Ate It!

A collection of poems, facts, statistics, and stories about unusual foods and eating habits.

Soto, Gary

Neighborhood Odes

Twenty-one poems celebrate life in a Hispanic neighborhood.

Books to Build On: Grade 5

Your fifth-grader is growing up fast! He or she is gaining a sense of independence through thinking and making choices. Although stories about home and school are still enjoyed, those about young people who live in very different times and places become increasingly popular. Children this age also appreciate more sophisticated fantasy. Books continue to provide a safe and nurturing way for upper-elementary aged children to try out new ideas and adventures.

FICTION*

Chambers, Veronica

Marisol and Magdalena: The Sound of our Sisterhood

Separated from her best friend, Magdalena, 13-year-old Marisol spends a year in Panama with her grandmother where she secretly searches for her missing father.

Cooney, Doug

The Beloved Dearly

Ernie, a 12-year-old business tycoon, makes a hefty profit in the pet funeral business until the death of his dog shows him that money isn't everything.

Coville, Bruce

The Monsters of Morley Manor

Anthony and his sister discover that the toy monsters he got at an estate sale are alive and will lead them on fantastic adventures.

Curtis, Christopher Paul

Bud, Not Buddy

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home in search of the man he believes is his father - the famous bandleader, H.E. Calloway.

DeClements, Barthe

Sixth Grade Can Really Kill You

Helen fears her poor reading skills will leave her stuck in sixth grade forever until a good teacher recognizes her problem.

Flake, Sharon

The Skin I'm In

Thirteen-year-old Maleeka is uncomfortable with her dark skin until she meets a teacher with an unusual birthmark and a lesson about loving yourself.

Gliori, Debi

Pure Dead Magic

The Strega-Borgia children and some very interesting characters use magic and the Internet to bring peace to their Scottish castle.

Hansen, Joyce

One True Friend

Orphaned and living in foster care, Amir exchanges letters with his friend, Doris, about their lives, their friendship, and a terrible secret about the real death of his parents he is too ashamed to share.

Hoobler, Dorothy ; Hoobler, Thomas

The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn

While attempting to solve the mystery of a stolen jewel, Seikei, a merchant's son who longs to be a samurai, joins a group of kabuki actors in eighteenth-century Japan.

Johnston, Tony

Any Small Goodness: A Novel of the Barrio

Mexican American Arturo, his family, and his friends share many bittersweet experiences in the East Los Angeles barrio.

Konigsburg, E.L

The View from Saturday

Four students develop a special bond that attracts the attention of their teacher who chooses them to represent their 6th grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

Korman, Gordon

No More Dead Dogs

When Wallace Wallace is forced to attend rehearsals of the school play, "Old Shep, My Pal," he finds hilarious ways to improve the script.

Lowry, Lois

The Giver

Twelve-year-old Jonas becomes the Receiver of Memories and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

Naidoo, Beverly

The Other Side of Truth

Smuggled out of Nigeria after their mother's murder, Sade and her younger brother are abandoned in London and fearful of what may have happened to their father.

Napoli, Donna Jo

Three Days

When her father suddenly dies while on a business trip leaving her alone on an Italian highway, eleven-year-old Jackie is picked up by two men with unknown motives.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds

The Agony of Alice

Eleven-year-old Alice decides she needs a beautiful role model, but when she's placed in homely Mrs. Plotkin's class, she's disappointed until she discovers it's what's on the inside that matters.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds

Jade Green: A Ghost Story

When a severed hand scampers across her bedroom floor one night, recently orphaned Judith knows that the ghost of Jade Green has come back - and she's after something, or someone!

Paulsen, Gary

Nightjohn

When a new field hand named Nightjohn offers to teach Sarny and others to read, Sarny's brutal life as a slave becomes even more dangerous.

Paulsen, Gary

Soldiers Heart: A Novel of the Civil War

Fifteen-year-old Charley experiences both the physical and mental horrors of being a soldier in the Civil War.

Philbrick, W.R.

The Journal of Douglas Allen Deeds: The Donner Party Expedition

Douglas Deeds, a fifteen-year-old orphan, keeps a journal of his pioneer travels as a member of the ill-fated Donner Party of 1846.

Roberts, Willo Davis

The Girl with the Silver Eyes

Ten-year-old Katie, who has always looked different from other children because of her silver eyes, discovers that she not only has unusual powers but there are others like her.

Sachar, Louis

Holes

Overweight and unpopular, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a nightmarish correctional camp in Texas where he not only discovers his first friend and buried treasure but a new sense of himself.

Spinelli, Jerry

Maniac Magee

After his parents die, Jeffery Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary as he accomplishes amazing feats that dazzle and thrill his small town.

Van Draanen, Wendelin

Flipped

The first time Juli saw Bryce, she flipped. The first time Bryce saw Juli, he ran! From the second grade to the seventh grade, that's how life was. But in eighth grade, their views turn upside down.

NON-FICTION*

Calabro, Marian

The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party

Uses materials from letters and diaries written by survivors of the Donner Party to relate the experiences of that ill-fated group as they endured horrific circumstances on their way to California in 1846-47.

Greenberg, Jan

Chuck Close, Up Close

A biography of the revisionist artist who achieved prominence in the late 1960s for enormous, photographically realistic, black and white portraits of himself and his friends.

Hoose, Phillip

We Were There, Too! Young People in U.S. History

Biographies of dozens of young people who made a mark in American history, including explorers, planters, spies, cowpunchers, sweatshop workers, and civil rights workers.

Tillage, Leon Walter

Leon's Story

The son of a North Carolina sharecropper recalls the hard times of his life and the changes that the Civil Rights movement created.

Wong, Janet

Suitcase of Seaweed and Other Poems

A collection of poems that reflect the experiences of Asian Americans, particularly their family relationships.

***THESE BOOKLISTS WERE PREPARED BY CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS OF THE SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM.**

Evaluation Form for Families Building Better Readers Workshop

Site where workshop took place: _____ Date: _____

Please use this scale and circle your rating of each activity:

P = Poor **G** = Good **E** = Excellent

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Your Rating</u>
1. Opening Session – (B - U - I - L - D)	P G E
2. Practice Makes Perfect: <i>Choosing the Right Book</i> <i>Guiding Reading Practice</i>	P G E
3. Games Readers Play <i>Ready, Set Read!</i> <i>Three Strikes – You Win</i> <i>Word Mysteries</i>	P G E
4. Everyday Reading <i>If you See It, Read It</i> <i>Talk is Cheap and It Works</i>	P G E
5. You Are What You Read <i>Books on a Shoestring Budget</i> <i>Picky Readers Pick Best</i> <i>Model Read Alouds</i>	P G E
6. Closing Session – Reading Aloud	P G E
7. Rate presenters overall	P G E
8. Rate workshop overall	P G E
9. Rate Free Materials Provided overall	P G E
10. What reading tips do you plan to use at home? _____ _____	
11. What follow-up to this workshop would you like? _____ _____	
12. Other comments _____ _____	
13. What is your ZIP Code? _____	