



Reading Activities that support Social Collaboration

By Kimberly Lee

*activities will need to be tailored to the specific age group and individual interests

Listening Station



Materials Needed:

- CD/tape player that supports multiple headphones
- Books on CD or Books on tape (be sure that you have the CD/tape AND the book (multiple copies preferred) so that the child can follow along with the CD/tape.

Steps to Implement:

1. Set up the listening station in a cozy corner of your classroom.
2. Organize materials in child's reach so that they may choose their own books on CD/tape.

Variations:

- *You may feature certain books that go along with your curriculum. For example, a Magic School Bus book on CD about volcanoes would complement a study on landforms in Science.
- *Also, you may wish to provide extension activities afterward that they students can work on together.

Reading Response Journals



Materials Needed:

- Notebooks for each student (Composition books work best!)

-Pencils or Pens

-Books

Steps to Implement:

1. Model writing a letter for your students (if necessary) and model appropriate ways to respond. Some students struggle with remembering to answer questions in their responses.
2. Keep all the response journals in a location where all students can access them. Allow them to write in their journals and others ON THEIR OWN TIME. Many children do not write well under pressure!

Variations:

*This activity is great between teacher and students, but also works well between students. Be sure to monitor the children's writing as an effort to keep them on track.

*Also, I usually provided them a weekly focus such as "This week, tell me about the lead character in a book that you are reading. How are you different and same from him or her?" This gives them some guidance but still allows flexibility for their personality to come out.

Big Book Buddies

Materials Needed:

- Big Books
- Pointers



Steps to Implement:

1. Set up a Big Book station where the Big Books are located. Also, store the pointers here.
2. Model for children the correct way to use the pointers.

Variations:

*My students liked wearing matching "Buddy" hats. You can also do matching necklaces or sunglasses.

*You may feature certain books that go along with your curriculum.

*Also, you may wish to provide extension activities afterward that they students can work on together.

Poetry Station

Materials Needed:

- Laminated posters of poems
- Instruction page
- Highlighter tape or dry-erase markers



Steps to Implement:

1. Set up the poetry station in a cozy corner of your classroom.
2. Spotlight a certain poem every day (or week) for kids to enjoy.
3. Model how to explore poems using Instruction page. Possible instructions (depending on age): Find all the words that start with the letter __. Highlight the rhyming words. Circle the nouns.

Variations:

- *You may feature certain poems that go along with your curriculum.
- * Spotlight a certain poem every day (or week) for kids to enjoy. My kids loved Maurice Sendak's Chicken Soup with Rice, which features poems for each month.

Readers' Theater

Materials Needed:

- Books
- Puppets (can be bought or kid-made)
- Mini-stage (optional)
- Other props that go along with story



Steps to Implement:

1. Set up a place in your classroom that supports Readers' Theater.
2. Allow children to work together to retell certain stories using puppets and props.

Variations:

- *Every year, my class would write their very own play. We would take a fairy tale and change the characters, setting, etc. to make it our very own through interactive writing. When done writing, I'd type it up and make copies for everyone. Next, we'd audition, rehearse (which encouraged repetitive readings), make props, and perform for other classes and parents. They LOVED this!

"Book Talks"

Materials Needed:

- Multiple copies of books



Steps to Implement:

1. You may choose to group children yourself or let them choose. It's very important to establish "Book Talk" rules to allow for every voice to be heard and respected. Possible rules could be: One person talks at a time. When someone is talking, hands, feet and eyes are still. Do not look ahead in the book when someone is reading.

Variations:

- *I strongly encourage teacher-facilitated book talks or Guided Reading groups. For more info. on guided reading, find resources by Fountas & Pinnell or Debbie Miller.
- *Cross-age book talks or buddy reading opportunities are a lot of fun! Set up a weekly time with a class in a different grade level and partner children up.
- *Also, you may wish to provide extension activities afterward that they students can work on together. Possible ideas: Have students get together and plan a short play to present to the other children in the class that summarizes what their book was about. Have them create a cereal box, movie poster, or character doll based on their shared book.

By increasing the collaborative opportunities in your classroom, such as encouraging book talks or buddy reading, your students are more likely to feel intrinsically motivated to read and more likely to evolve into lifelong readers!

Remember, there is no "shh" in reading!

For additional assistance, please feel free to contact me.

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