



Aimee Funk Instructor: Mother/Child Reading Program for Incarcerated Women with Children

Mother-Child Reading Strategies Class – Lesson 2 Reflecting on Our First Visit & New Reading Strategies for Ages 3-6

Lesson Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, you will:

- ✓ Reflect on your first reading visit, identifying successes and challenges.
 - ✓ Learn key aspects of early childhood reading psychology and how children process language.
 - ✓ Learn and practice new reading strategies to use with your child.
 - ✓ Create an action plan to apply these strategies in your next visit.
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1. Reflection on Your First Visit

Take a few minutes to reflect on your experience reading with your child. Use these questions to guide your thoughts:

What went well?

What was challenging?

How did your child respond to the reading strategies?

What would you like to improve for the next visit?

2. Understanding How Young Children Learn to Read

Children between the ages of 3 and 6 are in a critical stage of literacy development. Understanding how they learn can help us better support them.

Emergent Literacy:

- Children develop literacy skills before they can actually read.
- They learn by listening, recognizing patterns, predicting words, and associating sounds with letters.

Cognitive Development (Piaget's Preoperational Stage):

- Children in this stage learn best through engagement, play, and repetition.
- They see the world from their own perspective and benefit from stories that reflect their experiences.

Language Development (Vygotsky's Social Learning Theory):

- Children learn language through interaction—talking about a story is just as important as reading it.

- Adults help children connect words to meaning through discussion and questioning.

Attention & Engagement:

- Young children have short attention spans (10-15 minutes) and benefit from interactive reading.
 - Using rhyming, repetition, and movement keeps them engaged.
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3. New Reading Strategies to Try

Here are some new strategies to help engage your child while reading:

✓ **Dialogic Reading** – Encourage conversations by asking open-ended questions.

- *“What do you think will happen next?”*
- *“Why do you think the character is sad?”*

✓ **Tracking Print with a Finger** – Follow the words with your finger as you read to help your child connect spoken and written words.

✓ **Expanding on the Story** – Relate the story to your child’s life.

- *“This character is going to bed—what do you do before bed?”*

✓ **Singing & Rhythm Reading** – Turn rhyming words into a clapping game or a song to make reading fun.

✓ **Letting the Child "Read" the Pictures** – Allow your child to describe what they see in the illustrations to build language skills.

4. Planning for Your Next Visit

Use this space to plan how you will apply what you've learned today.

One new strategy I will try:

One challenge I faced and how I will approach it differently:

An example of how I will use the new strategy based on a page from my chosen book:

Final Thoughts:

- What excites you about reading with your child next time?
- How do you think today's strategies will help?

Homework/Take-Home Task:

 **Choose a book for your next visit** and write a brief plan for using at least one new strategy.

 **Read the handout on emergent literacy skills** to deepen your understanding.

This handout will serve as a guide to help you apply what you've learned and make your next reading visit even more meaningful! Happy reading!  