

Words that *Cook!* Parenting with children's books™

DVD Viewing & Workshop Guide

Show 5:
Reading Relationships

www.WordsThatCook.org

About Words That Cook, LLC

Words That Cook, LLC is an award-winning educational media company producing and delivering innovative literacy resources that empower parents and educators to inspire and motivate children. Our products and services include educational television programming and DVDs, Web resources, accredited courseware and training, and family literacy publications.

About Words that *Cook!* Parenting with children's books™

Originating as a 13-part series broadcast on select PBS affiliates and on public access cable stations nationwide, *Words that Cook! Parenting with children's books* is the winner of the *International Reading Association 2005 Broadcast Media Award for Television* and is now available in DVD format.

This series celebrates the joy of reading, the art of writing, the wonder of storytelling and the magic of wordplay through a combination of interviews and live action spiced up with animated fun.

Professionals, experts, parents and children model and discuss enjoyable and practical techniques for enriching literacy experiences. Designed for educators and parents of children ages 0-12, each DVD includes an original 30-minute episode, comprised of five or six related segments, plus bonus guest material and messages from the executive producers.

About this Viewing & Workshop Guide

This guide is designed to help you get the most out of the DVD, whether you are nurturing family literacy in your home, center or school.

With the guide, you can review the many family literacy suggestions presented throughout the show, read summaries of recommended books and engage in suggested activities.

If you are a professional planning workshops for others, you'll find helpful show overview and summary information as well as appropriate discussion prompts for both parent workshops and professional staff development.

The grade levels specified for each DVD chapter and extra indicate the grades to which the topics and modeled strategies apply. When children are featured, the *italicized* grade level indicates the range into which those children fall. If other grade levels are also listed, the topics and modeled strategies are appropriate for these grades as well.

By watching, discussing and using the strategies modeled in the show, we hope you and your family, or the families you serve, will be empowered to create dynamic and exciting reading and writing experiences for children.

Summary of Show 5: Reading Relationships

Books can become like family or friends when they're always around and we share them together. The guests on this show use books to relate to real-life events, play games, have one-on-one time and explore family heritage – all the while building stronger relationships. Whether you have five minutes or an hour, every moment interacting with books is time well spent.

Show 5 Outline

Show Intro (length - 1:47)

In the Words that *Cook!* virtual neighborhood library, hosts Monty Haas and Martine Bernard introduce the theme of this show: *Reading Relationships*.

Book(s): *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen

Chapter 1: Bonding through Books (length - 2:47)

Guest(s): Gary Waleik and his 5-year-old daughter

Location: Bacon Free Library

Grade Level(s): All Levels (*Kindergarten – Grade 2*)

Topic(s): emotional reactions to stories; rereading favorite books; choosing books that directly reflect children's experiences and development; fostering the parent-child bond through books; relating books to real life; using books to stimulate conversation

Modeled Strategies: lapsit reading aloud; including children in adult conversations; addressing children respectfully

Book(s): *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen; *One Morning in Maine* by Robert McCloskey

Recipes for Success™:

Read stories that mirror family life

Compare what you read to what you see

Chapter 2: Illustration-Based Games (length - 2:00)

Guest(s): Laurie Joy Haas, Words that *Cook!* Executive Producer, with Honey the Cookie-Bookie Bear™

Location: Virtual Set – *Noisy Nora* Illustration

Grade Level(s): Infant/Toddler; Pre-Kindergarten; Kindergarten – Grade 2

Topic(s): playing the “warmer/cooler” game with book illustrations

Modeled Strategies: playing the “warmer/cooler” game with book illustrations; using prepositional phrases to describe where objects are located; encouraging children with praise

Book(s): *Noisy Nora* by Rosemary Wells

Recipes for Success:

Play seek-and-find games with pictures

Describe where objects can be found in the picture

Chapter 3: Reading Volunteers (length – 3:37)

Guest(s): Imogene Washington, Mayflower Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP); Christine Silva, Mayflower RSVP; Michael Cunningham, Literacy Coordinator, Mayflower RSVP; Joan Thompson, Director, Mayflower RSVP

Location: Studio

Grade Level(s): Kindergarten – Grade 2; *Grades 3 – 6*

Topic(s): enjoying reading; supporting reluctant readers; connecting books with children’s interests; the bonding and relationships that grow out of reading together; motivation for volunteering; preparing children for reading; communicating and sharing stories; setting an example of the joy of reading

Modeled Strategies: enjoying reading; visiting the library and finding books together

Recipes for Success:

Try to help children understand and enjoy what they read

Look for non-fiction materials

Don't give up – offer a variety of books

Find books that match your child's interests

Listen to kids – get them thinking and talking

Show kids how much fun it is to read

Chapter 4: Bringing Family Together Around Books (length – 4:38)

Guest(s): Gloria Woods, Principal, and her 9-year-old daughter

Location: Mattahunt School

Grade Level(s): *Kindergarten – Grade 2; Grades 3 – 6*

Topic(s): seeing reading as a social activity; making reading interactive; following up on reading with discussion; predicting outcomes in books; having children retell stories in their own words; making reading and discussions informal; exploring new vocabulary in books; relating books to real life; making books available throughout your home; setting an example of reading

Modeled Strategies: holding books outward for groups of children to see as you read; singing the words of a book; including children in adult conversations

Book(s): *And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon* by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel; *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo

Recipes for Success:

Make reading interactive

Build a partnership around reading

Predict and retell plots

Relax, keep reading and discussion fun and natural

Make discovering new words fun

Discuss the book’s background – relate family history

Place books all around the house

Let your kids see you enjoy reading

Chapter 5: Getting Excited About Reading (length – 5:23)

Guest(s): Joe Finder, Author, and his 10-year-old daughter

Location: Studio

Grade Level(s): Kindergarten – Grade 2; *Grades 3 – 6*

Topic(s): respecting children’s input; establishing bedtime routine of reading aloud; learning from children’s reactions to books; ending with cliff-hangers; discussing story predictions; laying a foundation for a lifetime love of reading; reading aloud with older children; making reading interactive; rereading favorite books

Modeled Strategies: including children in adult conversations; recalling favorite books from early childhood

Book(s): *The Giver* by Lois Lowry; *The Thief Lord* by Cornelia Funke; *The Going to Bed Book* by Sandra Boynton

Recipes for Success:

Maintain suspense with cliff-hangers

Ask, “What do you think is going to happen?”

Discuss your child’s story predictions

Keep reading fun

Let kids participate in reading aloud

Chapter 6: Making Reading a Priority (length – 2:24)

Guest(s): Michele Souda, Joe Finder and their 10-year-old daughter

Location: Studio

Grade Level(s): All Levels (*Grades 3 – 6*)

Topic(s): interacting with books as objects; finding time for reading

Modeled Strategies: photographing reading moments; exposing infants to books; making books and reading part of everyday life

Book(s): *Pat the Bunny* by Dorothy Kunhardt

Recipes for Success:

Interact with books even before reading begins

Find board books with interesting textures

Don’t worry about time – reading moments last

Show Recap/Close (length – 2:44)

Hosts Monty Haas and Martine Bernard review selected Recipes for Success and present the Recommended Book List.

Extra 1: A Word from Our Producers (length – 6:24)

Guest(s): Monty Haas and Laurie Joy Haas, Words that Cook! Executive Producers

Topic(s): the bonding and relationships that grow out of reading together; overview of show guests; reading aloud with older children; new Words that Cook! production techniques; training of RSVP reading volunteers; *Read it Aloud! Tips, Tools & Techniques™*; two-voice poetry; links to guests and books on the Words That Cook Web site

Book(s): *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices* by Paul Fleischman

Extra 2: More Gary Waleik – “Reading and Conversation” (length – 2:57)

Guest(s): Gary Waleik and his 5-year-old daughter

Grade Level(s): Kindergarten – Grade 2; Grades 3 – 6

Topic(s): choosing books by author

Modeled Strategies: lapsit reading aloud; building reading comprehension by talking about what is happening in a story; children reading aloud to adults; guiding children to sound out words as they read; being patient with and encouraging emergent readers; encouraging children with praise

Book(s): *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie...* by Laura Joffe Numeroff

Extra 3: More Gloria Woods – “Book Talk & Teens” (length – 1:18)

Guest(s): Gloria Woods, Principal

Grade Level(s): Grades 3 – 6

Topic(s): parents reading books assigned to children in school; engaging in “book talk”; impact of engaging in “book talk” on communication and bonding

Extra 4: More Joan Thompson RSVP – “Five Cornerstones of Reading” (length – 1:42)

Guest(s): Joan Thompson, Director, Mayflower RSVP

Grade Level(s): Pre-Kindergarten; Kindergarten – Grade 2; Grades 3 – 6

Topic(s): training of RSVP reading volunteers; five cornerstones of learning to read; English words that don’t follow any rules of spelling or pronunciation; using wordplay games and activities to reinforce the five cornerstones

Extra 5: More with The Finders – “Keep Reading” (length – 1:16)

Guest(s): Joe Finder, Michele Souda and their 10-year-old daughter

Grade Level(s): Kindergarten – Grade 2; Grades 3 – 6

Topic(s): reading aloud with older children; reading aloud versus reading to oneself; the bonding and relationships that grow out of reading together

Extra 6: More with The Finders – “Reading Town” (length – 1:40)

Guest(s): Michele Souda and her 10-year-old daughter

Grade Level(s): Kindergarten – Grade 2; *Grades 3 – 6*

Topic(s): creating a special time and place for reading; reducing distractions during reading time

Extra 7: More with The Finders – “Joyful Noise” (length – :57)

Guest(s): Michele Souda and her 10-year-old daughter

Grade Level(s): Kindergarten – Grade 2; *Grades 3 – 6*

Modeled Strategies: parents and children engaging in two-voice poetry

Book(s): *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices* by Paul Fleischman

Show 5 Recommended Book List

For Ages 0 to 3:

Book!

Written by Kristine O’Connell George

Illustrated by Maggie Smith

What do you do with a book? When one little boy receives a book as a gift, he is instantly fascinated and playfully explores everything he can do with it. Aside from the practical application of reading, the boy learns that a book can be opened and closed; worn as a pretend hat; shared with pets, stuffed animals and baby siblings and hugged and cherished. This poem book, along with the vivid illustrations, delightfully depicts a toddler’s first magical and jubilant encounter with a book.

I Love My Daddy Because...

Written by Laurel Porter-Gaylord

Illustrated by Ashley Wolff

With text written from a child’s perspective, this book presents some of the many ways in which human and animal daddies care for their children. Wildlife biologists were consulted and verified the accuracy of the animal behaviors. The realistic illustrations show familiar and unusual animal dads engaged in a wide range of activities with their young, and labels above the pictures identify the animals. From chimpanzees (“...because he makes me laugh”) to horned puffins (“...because he brings me dinner”), you and your children will see the beauty, joy and importance of nurturing behaviors that strengthen the bond between father and child.

For Ages 3 to 6:

The Wednesday Surprise

Written by Eve Bunting

Illustrated by Donald Carrick

Every Wednesday night, when Anna's mom works late and her brother goes to basketball practice, Anna and Grandma get to spend some time together. Anna loves books and she loves to share them with Grandma – story after story after story. It seems like Grandma can't get enough either. Secretly, Anna and Grandma are working on a birthday surprise for Anna's dad. When the big day comes around and Dad thinks he's opened all of his gifts, he quickly finds out that there's one more surprise in store for him and it just might be the best gift of all. This touching story reminds us all how books and reading can bring families together in the most incredible ways.

Mr. Putter and Tabby Stir the Soup

Written by Cynthia Rylant

Illustrated by Arthur Howard

Mr. Putter and his cat Tabby love to make soup, but when their stove isn't working, that puts a real kink in the cooking plan. Luckily, their sweet neighbor Mrs. Teaberry agrees to let them make soup at her house. There's just one problem: Zeke, Mrs. Teaberry's bulldog wants to play instead. While Mr. Putter and Tabby stir ingredients into the pot, Zeke puts a new twist on the game of "fetch." A deliciously funny story!

Noisy Nora

Written and Illustrated by Rosemary Wells

This book, told in rhyming text, is sure to become a read-aloud favorite in your home. Nora wants some attention, but it seems she always has to wait – wait for Mother to finish feeding and burping baby brother Jack; wait for Father to finish playing with and reading to older sister Kate. It's just not fair being the middle child, and Nora is tired of waiting. Maybe if she makes some noise, people will start paying attention. When that only leads to scolding from Mother and Father and teasing from Kate, Nora has to come up with a new plan. What will she do?

For Ages 6 to 9:

Rufus M.

Written by Eleanor Estes

Illustrated by Louis Slobodkin

In this Newbery Honor Book, you and your children will find a timeless and irresistible character. At seven years old, Rufus Moffat is already very much his own person. When he encounters problems, like not having enough food or money, he comes up with unique and often humorous approaches to solutions. He also shares some wonderful adventures with fantastical and imaginary friends, including an invisible piano player. He becomes so determined to borrow books from the library that he goes to extensive efforts to meet the librarian's requirements to sign a library card: teaching himself to write. Setting this story in the early 1900s, Eleanor Estes provides insights into an earlier time and experiences. Her character, Rufus, demonstrates a creative sense of problem solving that will generate laughter and inspire you and your children to consider unconventional solutions to everyday challenges. And, by capturing the excitement of getting your first library card, he might just inspire more trips to the library for your family, too.

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge

Written by Mem Fox

Illustrated by Julie Vivas

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge likes living next door to a home for the elderly. He's friends with everyone there, but his favorite neighbor is 96-year-old Nancy Alison Delacourt Cooper. As the two share special times and secrets, Wilfrid discovers they have a lot more in common than just the fact that they each have four names. When Wilfrid overhears that Nancy has lost her memory, he asks the other residents what a memory is. With answers like "something from long ago" and "something that makes you laugh" in mind, Wilfrid sets out to collect and give to Nancy objects that represent his own memories. By doing so, he just might help Nancy recover the treasures locked in her mind.

Nicholas at the Library

Written by Hazel Hutchins

Illustrated by Ruth Ohi

Have you ever thought of a librarian as a superhero? One who can lead a search and rescue with a magic ring? *Nicholas at the Library* reads like a trip through a dream on a rainy day at the library. Together, Nicholas and the librarian travel through books, physically jumping from one story setting into another as though from one movie set to another, trying to find the home of a lost chimpanzee who has become separated from his story. In a charming and fantastical way, this story reinforces the idea of the magic of books.

For Ages 9 to 12:

The Same Stuff as Stars

Written by Katherine Paterson

Once again, Katherine Paterson tackles troubling subject matter in a way that enlightens readers and ultimately imparts a message of hope. Eleven-year-old Angel seems more responsible and grown up than her own parents: a father in jail and a mother whose drinking problem makes her unreliable at best. Angel and her seven-year-old brother Bernie have moved and been shuffled around too many times, including some time spent in foster care. Angel takes on a parental role with her brother and does what she can to keep both of them safe. When their mother abandons them with their poor but caring great-grandmother, Angel takes solace in books at the nearby library and a special friendship with an uncle who shares her interest in the stars and galaxies and, more importantly, teaches Angel that she herself is made of "the same stuff as stars."

The Giver

Written by Lois Lowry

In this gripping science fiction novel, Lois Lowry explores the provocative idea of sacrificing free will and freedom for an ordered, supposedly problem-free society. Through the eyes of 12-year-old Jonas, we witness what appears to be a utopian futuristic society – one without hunger, disease or crime. The community is ruled by a Committee of Elders. Everyone has jobs for which they are suited, and every family consists of a mother, a father and two children – one boy and one girl. To achieve this appealing and idealistic state, however, everyone sacrifices all of their memories, along with their power to make individual decisions, see colors, hear music and more. At age 12, children receive their lifetime job assignments. When Jonas is selected to become the "Receiver of Memories," the current Receiver must impart to Jonas all of the collective memories of generations. Jonas quickly begins to see the hypocrisy of his world and discovers his ideal society is not all it's cracked up to be. But what will he do with this new-found insight?

For Parents:

You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Stories to Read Together

Written by Mary Ann Hoberman

Illustrated by Michael Emberley

Rhythm, rhyme and repetition form the backbone of this delightful book that creates enriching opportunities for parents and children to truly share in the joy of reading. The book contains 13 very short stories designed to be read by two voices. The text appears in color-coded columns that make it easy to take turns reading lines individually and in unison. The playful spirit of the text is sustained by Michael Emberley's lively illustrations.

Read Me a Story (Yoko & Friends School Days series)

Written by Rosemary Wells

Illustrated by Jody Wheeler

Yoko is a good reader, but she tries to keep this talent hidden from her family and teachers. When she writes to a cereal company for a decoder ring and helps a friend with origami instructions, her true abilities are revealed. When asked why she kept her ability to read a secret, Yoko admits she was afraid her mother would stop reading bedtime stories to her. Her mother calms her fears, reassuring Yoko that she will always continue to read to her and even encouraging Yoko to read to her, too. This charming story speaks volumes about the power and importance of reading aloud to children.

Suggested Literacy Activities

Read books to children from day one and let children explore books on their own, even before they can read – holding books and becoming familiar with them purely as objects. Board books are great for little ones as they withstand chewing, tearing and other consequences of exploration.

It's so important for infants and toddlers to be exposed to books and form positive associations with them. Research shows us that early literacy practices greatly impact children's future academic success. Go to www.rif.org, click on Parents and then, under Select an Age Group, click on 0-4. This will take you to the Your Baby, Toddler and Preschooler section where you can follow another link to Leading to Reading: Resources for Ages 0-5. Once in this area of the site, you can follow links by age group that lead to information and resources for age-appropriate Activities, Booklists, Stories & Songs and Fun & Play.

As you read and reread books with rhyming texts, take pauses just before rhyming words to let toddlers and preschoolers chime in to complete the rhyme. Be sure to praise children when they provide the correct rhyming word. If they offer a word that does rhyme, but isn't the specific rhyming word in the text, first praise them for coming up with a rhyme, then tell them it's not the word in the story and give them hints so they can guess the exact rhyming word.

Encourage children to get their own library cards and check out books. Make sure you talk to them about the due dates – maybe post these dates on your family or classroom calendar and continue to draw their attention to them, reminding them of the responsibility involved. You can also explore your local library's Web site with children. Many library sites have pages designed for kids as well as listings of programs for kids. All of this will help children get excited about books and reading.

At the Web site of the American Library Association, you can find some great tips for getting children Involved with the library. Go to www.ala.org and enter the phrase "kids and libraries" in the Search box. Click on the resulting link for Coping with Challenges: Kids and Libraries. Here you will find information about the role of libraries, how librarians select books, how to help children make the best use of libraries and more.

Talk with children about memories and create the opportunity for endless hours of fun by making memory albums. Use photographs, letters (including printed E-mails), even relevant newspaper or magazine clippings. Come up with captions together and be sure to date items in the book. Encourage children to decorate pages with their drawings and artwork. Add in pieces you write together and individually about memories. Children could even interview elderly relatives and write about some of their memories. Not only is this a joyful activity in the present, the albums are sure to be cherished in the future.

Additional Words That Cook Resources

Words That Cook develops resources for professionals and parents that help to motivate and inspire children to learn and to love reading, writing, storytelling and wordplay. At our Web site (www.WordsThatCook.org) under Free Resources, you will find valuable information derived from the television series, including activity and additional reading ideas connected to each recommended book. Also at the Marketplace of our site, you can learn more about our other literacy-related products and services.

For Professionals

Discussion prompts and group activity ideas for teacher/staff workshops

How can you promote reading throughout your classroom and not just in a specified area?

Select and discuss some of the modeled strategies and Recipes for Success.

Separate into small groups of participants. Have each group create a poster listing ideas for parents on how to “Make Time for Reading.” Share with the whole group and hang the posters in classrooms and/or parent information areas.

Discussion prompts and group activity ideas for parent workshops

Discuss suggestions for making time to read with your child and how you might incorporate these ideas into daily routines.

Select and discuss some of the modeled strategies and Recipes for Success.

Either in small groups or as a whole, decorate boxes or baskets to hold books for placement in various spots throughout your home. Share the decorated boxes or baskets with the whole group.

When working with ESL/ELL families, help them to understand the value of learning and applying literacy strategies in their primary language. Encourage them to also apply strategies in English if it is comfortable and if the adult has developed the English language skills to sufficiently challenge their child.

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