

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

DVD Viewing & Workshop Guide

Show 7:  
Make Literacy an Adventure

[www.WordsThatCook.org](http://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 7: Make Literacy an Adventure

When you mix literacy with children's interests, you've got a recipe for adventure. The guests in this show give tips for linking literacy activities with an interest in animals and for engaging special needs children. Whether introducing new vocabulary or nonfiction books, boosting confidence or supporting communication skills; children's interests are a vital ingredient.

### Show 7 Outline

#### Show Intro (length - 1:57)

As they set out on a virtual safari, hosts Monty Haas and Martine Bernard introduce the theme of this show: *Make Literacy an Adventure*.

**Book(s):** *Amazing Animal Facts* by Jacqui Bailey

#### Chapter 1: Making Learning Fun and Engaging (length - 3:49)

**Guest(s):** Ed Laquidara, Founder, Animal Adventures

**Location:** Animal Adventures Science and Learning Center

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

**Topic(s):** animal characteristics and habits (hedgehog and skunk); teaching factual information in a story format; making up humorous stories based on illustrations; including factual information in humorous stories; putting oneself into stories in the role of a particular animal, person, etc.

**Modeled Strategies:** exposing children to live animals to engage curiosity and hold attention; asking questions, making comparisons and using repetition to reinforce new information and vocabulary; incorporating humor into teaching and workshop settings; making eye contact when leading discussions; engaging parents and children in learning together; engaging a variety of senses when teaching; introducing new vocabulary; teaching in a story format; lapsit reading aloud; extending reading aloud through storytelling, discussion and dramatic play

#### **Recipes for Success™:**

Ask questions and use comparisons to help children remember new information

Don't lecture – put lessons in story form

Create fun and factual stories together

## Chapter 2: Discussing Pictures to Promote Language Development (length – 1:48)

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

**Location:** Words that *Cook!* Virtual Den

**Grade Level(s):** Pre-Kindergarten; Kindergarten – Grade 2

**Topic(s):** discussing pictures with children; introducing new vocabulary related to pictures; using sound and motion to reinforce new vocabulary; making up stories about pictures using new vocabulary; acting out stories; choosing pictures that you can extend with real-life activities

**Modeled Strategies:** asking open-ended questions that let children contribute ideas and that extend conversation; encouraging children with praise; examining pictures to discover details for discussion; introducing new vocabulary related to pictures; using sound and motion to reinforce new vocabulary

### Recipes for Success:

Use pictures to stimulate discussion

Build stories around new vocabulary

Choose pictures that lead to an adventure

## Chapter 3: Connecting Reading and Vocabulary with Interests (length – 4:55)

**Guest(s):** Ed Laquidara, Founder, Animal Adventures

**Location:** Animal Adventures Science and Learning Center

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

**Topic(s):** learning about pets; using books to teach about responsibility; visiting the library and doing research; animal characteristics and habits (alligator and crocodile); exposing children to live animals to engage curiosity and hold attention; introducing new vocabulary related to children's interests; using developmentally appropriate vocabulary; connecting books with children's interests

**Modeled Strategies:** exposing children to live animals to engage curiosity and hold attention; asking questions to review common knowledge; providing hints to lead children to accurate conclusions; incorporating humor into teaching and workshop settings; making eye contact when leading discussions; engaging parents and children in learning together; asking questions, making comparisons and using repetition to reinforce new information and vocabulary; relating new vocabulary to familiar words; having children repeat newly-introduced vocabulary; engaging a variety of senses when teaching; using hands-on exploration to confirm or refute assumptions

### Recipes for Success:

Visit the library before getting a pet

Remember, responsibility begins with knowledge

Review common knowledge before introducing new information

Give hints with questions that lead to accurate conclusions

Include oral repetition to teach vocabulary

Choose developmentally appropriate vocabulary

Use children's interests to introduce new words

Test assumptions with hands-on exploration

Have fun doing research together

## Chapter 4: Exploring Non-Fiction Books (length – 4:25)

**Guest(s):** Heather Blanchard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, Charlton Street Elementary School; Ed Laquidara, Founder, Animal Adventures

**Location:** Animal Adventures Science and Learning Center

**Grade Level(s):** Pre-Kindergarten; Kindergarten – Grade 2

**Topic(s):** using and exploring non-fiction books; approaching books in developmentally-appropriate ways; exploring books through illustrations and discussing what is seen; tracking words as you read aloud; defining new vocabulary as you read aloud; relating new vocabulary to familiar words; parents as children's first teachers; engaging in "book talk"; books that reinforce learning through repetition; using books as springboards to storytelling, writing and art projects

**Modeled Strategies:** tracking words as you read aloud; defining new vocabulary as you read aloud

**Book(s):** *Treasury of Animals and Nature* by Learning Horizons; *Zoo-ology* by Joëlle Jolivet

### Recipes for Success:

Explore non-fiction books with young children

Point to words while you're reading

Pick out big words and explain them

Use repetition to reinforce learning

Enable kids to communicate feelings and ideas on paper

## Chapter 5: Boosting Literacy and Self-Confidence (length – 2:40)

**Guest(s):** Katherine Brophy and her 14-year-old son; Ed Laquidara, Founder, Animal Adventures

**Location:** Animal Adventures Science and Learning Center

**Grade Level(s):** *Grades 3 – 6*

**Topic(s):** discussing children's interests; children volunteering for programs that support their interests; benefits of volunteering; working with special needs children; engaging a variety of senses with special needs children

**Modeled Strategies:** "publishing" children's writing and art projects by sharing them; reading aloud children's poetry in two voices; respecting children's input; defining new vocabulary within conversations

### Recipes for Success:

Encourage learning to promote confidence

Try to engage a variety of senses with special needs children

## Chapter 6: Increasing Communication with Special Needs Individuals (length – 1:53)

**Guest(s):** Laura Pica, Recreation Supervisor, New England Pediatric Care; Ed Laquidara, Founder, Animal Adventures; Eddie Lascelles

**Location:** Animal Adventures Science and Learning Center

**Grade Level(s):** All Levels

**Topic(s):** engaging a variety of senses with special needs individuals; exposing special needs individuals to live animals to stimulate communication and enjoyment; recognizing and responding to non-verbal communication; reading aloud with special needs individuals; expanding books with related follow-up activities; exposing special needs individuals to all kinds of age-appropriate reading material

**Modeled Strategies:** going on day trips with special needs individuals; exposing special needs individuals to live animals to stimulate communication and enjoyment; engaging a variety of senses with special needs individuals; recognizing and responding to non-verbal communication; treating special needs individuals with respect

### Recipes for Success:

Recognize physical communication and respond to it

Do follow-up activities that reinforce reading

Respect the age and cognitive abilities of special needs individuals

## Chapter 7: Animals and Special Needs Children (length – 1:18)

**Guest(s):** Ed Laquidara, Founder, Animal Adventures; Yogi the Cockatoo

**Location:** Animal Adventures Science and Learning Center

**Grade Level(s):** All Levels

**Topic(s):** a story exemplifying the benefits of interactions between special needs children and animals; exposing special needs individuals to live animals to stimulate communication and enjoyment

### Recipes for Success:

Use animals to stimulate communication with special needs children

## Show Recap/Close (length – 2:38)

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 – 2:37)

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

**Topic(s):** overview of show content and guests; connecting books, vocabulary and research with children's interests; leading discussions with children and parents; animals and special needs children

### Extra 2: More Ed Laquidara – “The Whole Story” (length – 1:23)

**Guest(s):** Ed Laquidara, Founder, Animal Adventures

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

**Topic(s):** importance of listening to information, instructions, rules, etc. in their entirety when learning something new

**Modeled Strategies:** exposing children to live animals to engage curiosity and hold attention; asking questions and using repetition to reinforce new information and vocabulary; making eye contact when leading discussions; engaging parents and children in learning together; illustrating a point by telling a true story; incorporating humor into teaching and workshop settings

### Extra 3: More Ed Laquidara – “What on Earth Is a Kinkajou?” (length – 1:13)

**Guest(s):** Ed Laquidara, Founder, Animal Adventures

**Grade Level(s):** All Levels

**Topic(s):** animal characteristics and habits (kinkajou)

### Extra 4: More Ed Laquidara – “Learning Words from Pictures” (length – :57)

**Guest(s):** Ed Laquidara, Founder, Animal Adventures

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

**Topic(s):** examining pictures for clues when discussing the meaning of words

**Modeled Strategies:** exposing children to live animals to engage curiosity and hold attention; having children repeat newly-introduced vocabulary; asking questions and using repetition to reinforce new information and vocabulary; illustrating a point by telling a true story making eye contact when leading discussions; engaging parents and children in learning together

### Extra 5: More Sriram & Paul Families – “Feelings onto Paper” (length – 2:47)

**Guest(s):** Krishnan-Sriram Family

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

**Topic(s):** using poetry as a springboard to writing and art projects; connecting poetry with children's interests and beliefs; expressing feelings and beliefs through writing and art projects; recognizing and nurturing children's strengths; using art as a springboard to writing

**Modeled Strategies:** “publishing” children's writing and art projects by sharing them; discussing children's interpretations of poems; expressing feelings and beliefs through writing and art projects; discussing children's interests, feelings and beliefs

## Extra 6: More Sriram & Paul Families – “Feelings onto Paper” (length – 1:30)

**Guest(s):** Paul Family

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

**Topic(s):** acrostic poems

**Modeled Strategies:** “publishing” children’s writing and art projects by sharing them; expressing feelings and beliefs through writing and art projects; connecting poetry with children’s interests and beliefs

## Show 7 Recommended Book List

### For Ages 0 to 3:

#### **Animal Babies in Rain Forests**

Written by Jennifer Schofield

Designed by Joanne Brown

Vivid close-up photographs bring animals to life in this delightful book. Each animal baby is pictured with a descriptive sentence and the question, “Who is my mommy?” The following page answers that question and provides further description of the animal alongside a photograph of the baby and its mother. This question-and-answer pattern not only presents some basic traits of a variety of animals found in rain forests, but also sets up possibilities for engaging guessing games.

#### **Touch and Feel Baby Animals**

By DK Publishing

This sturdy board book is a fantastic way to introduce children to some favorite baby animals: rabbits, elephants, ducklings, calves and gorillas. Beginning with an invitation to see the baby animals, the pages feature photographs with cut-out textures for touching and feeling. One adjective is highlighted to describe each baby animal's fur or skin, such as “soft” or “fluffy.” Little ones will love the interactive quality of this book and the potential for exploration.

### For Ages 3 to 6:

#### **Animal Action ABC**

Written by Karen Pandell

Wildlife photography by Art Wolfe

Child photography by Nancy Sheehan

Through this marvelously dynamic and multifaceted board book, children learn and strengthen their knowledge of the alphabet in conjunction with the actions of different animals. Prompting children to “**A**rch,” “**B**alance” and “**C**harge,” each letter is accentuated with brilliant wildlife action photographs together with photographs of children imitating the animal movements. The rhyming text further acquaints children with some animal behaviors. This approach expands the alphabet to a new level and inspires interactive fun.



## **The Umbrella**

Written and illustrated by Jan Brett

Carlos sets out for the Cloud Forest carrying his green leaf umbrella and hoping to spy a jaguar, a toucan, a kinkajou or any other of the rain forest's remarkable animals. From the ground, Carlos can't see much of anything, so he decides to climb a giant fig tree for a better view. But the animals of the forest have a different idea, leaving Carlos wondering where they all are. Little does he know that the animals have been drawn to the umbrella he left behind on the forest floor. Jan Brett's lush, detailed illustrations and clever, ironic tale create a Cloud Forest world that is endlessly intriguing and beautiful. The inclusion of some bilingual English-Spanish dialog is an added bonus, as are the rich details on the side of each page that help predict the next event in the book.

## **For Ages 6 to 9:**

### **Actual Size**

Written and illustrated by Steve Jenkins

How big is a gorilla's hand? How tiny is a pygmy mouse lemur? These questions, and many more, are answered through simple text and stunning, vibrant collages. Some of the illustrations show animals in their full body size, while others highlight just a part of animal, like its teeth or its tongue. In total, 18 animals are featured with their sizes in terms of height, length, width and/or weight. At the close of the book, we revisit the animals and find additional information about their behaviors and habitats. A wonderful depiction of wildlife, the perspective offered in this book makes exotic and unusual animals more real for both children and adults.

### **Omnibeasts: Animal Poems and Paintings**

Written and illustrated by Douglas Florian

Whimsy and humor shape each poem and painting in this book and introduce children to a world of both familiar and unusual animals. In many cases, even the typesetting of the text employs artistic methods to express animal actions, like the wriggling and quivering of polliwogs and the howling of coyotes. With 44 poems to explore, children are sure to revisit this book again and again to delight in the unique characteristics and humorous aspects of every animal.

### **Slinky, Scaly, Slithery Snakes**

Written by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

Illustrated by Kendahl Jan Jubb

Packed with fascinating tidbits about the habits and biology of snakes, there is so much to discover in these pages. Through bold and realistic paintings and scientifically accurate text, children can learn a great deal about these intriguing creatures: from abilities, like swimming and camouflage, to how they ambush or attract and ultimately kill their prey. This book closes by making the point that most snakes are not harmful, but in fact, useful to humans and that they play an important role in nature. An index provides the scientific names of different snakes and references to where they are pictured in the book.

## For Ages 9 to 12:

### **Amazing Animal Facts**

Written by Jacqui Bailey

Designed by Adrienne Hutchinson

In this exquisite and enlightening book, animals from all over the world are separated into species categories, such as mammals and fish, and subcategories of questions, like “Are mammals fierce?” and “How do fish breathe?” Each question leads to a general answer as well as more specific information about particular animals within the species. Superb, authentic wildlife and model photographs, including cross-section models, and comprehensive, revealing text combine to provide compelling and endless opportunities for discovery.

### **Animal Disguises**

Written by Belinda Weber

Designed by Carol Ann Davis

How many ways are there for animals to hide from predators or prey? Nearly 20 can be found in this book alone. From mimicking surroundings to changing color to shape shifting, it is amazing what animals can do to protect themselves or to increase their chances as they hunt for food. Presented in bold photographs and engaging text, categories of disguises are broken down to their basics and complemented by specific examples of the cover-ups in action. Key terminology, like algae and larva, are featured and defined along the bottom edge of pages. To expand the subject into activities, three projects are included at the end of the book.

### **Great Pets! An Extraordinary Guide to More Than 60 Usual and Unusual Family Pets**

Written by Sara Stein

Photography by Edward Judice

The subtitle to this book gives you an idea of just how extensive the contents are. There are chapters dedicated to cats, dogs and birds as well as less common categories, such as Pets in the Wild and Serpenterium Pets. Features like At a Glance guides, fact bubbles, photographs, drawings and sidebars provide valuable and distinct details. A chapter on pet homes offers instructions for assembling everything from desert vivariums to pigeon coops. First Words and Last Words get to the heart of pet ownership, tackling such topics as pet selection, illnesses, escapes and death. Children will gain a better understanding of different animals’ needs and characteristics and the level of responsibility involved in having any pet.

## Suggested Literacy Activities

Take a trip to a petting zoo or wildlife center that allows children to interact with live animals. (Calling ahead is always a good idea to check on the best times to see and touch animals.) You might want to read a book, particularly a non-fiction book, that talks about one or more of the animals you will encounter. While petting animals on your outing, help children compare and put into descriptive words the feel of the textures of fur or skin and other physical traits. After the trip, encourage children to draw pictures and write the captions they dictate using their descriptive words.

Check out the Kids section of [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com). For little ones, the Print 'n' Go Coloring Book area offers images of nearly 50 animals that you can print and color. For school age children, the Creature Features area provides Fun Facts, Video, Audio and Range Maps related to nearly 30 different animals. In the Homework Help section, children can link to quizzes, interactive presentations and more in such categories as Animals, History/Culture and Science/Nature. For example, click on King Cobra under the Animals heading to interactively explore the body of this snake and discover details about its defenses, feeding habits and much more.

At [www.smithsonianeducation.org](http://www.smithsonianeducation.org), click on Educators. Under the Lesson Plans menu, select History & Culture. Click on the link for Lewis and Clark and then select Lesson Plan 1 (in History & Culture menu on left side of page). Either at home or in your classroom, follow the Animal Encounters lesson plan to engage children ages eight to twelve in a creative art and writing project related to animals encountered by Lewis and Clark.

Consider picking up or subscribing to nature-, wildlife- and science-oriented children's magazines. The National Wildlife Federation offers three different magazines according to age: *Wild Animal Baby* for ages 12 months to four years; *Your Big Backyard* for ages three to seven and *Ranger Rick* for ages 7 and up. Wildlife Education Ltd. produces two animal-focused magazines: *Zoobooks* for ages five to 12 and *Zootles* for ages two to six. *Click* (Carus Publishing/Cricket Magazine Group) explores science, nature, art and the environment at a level appropriate for ages three to seven. *National Geographic Kids*, for ages eight to 14, addresses nature, wildlife, world cultures and more.

One Web site that provides comprehensive and wide-ranging information about a great variety of pets is [www.petplace.com](http://www.petplace.com). Individual pages enable you to connect to all sorts of information about specific animals, including small mammals and reptiles. In the Enjoy Compelling Pet Stories section, you can read about pet owners and their animals in and even consider sharing your own family or classroom pet story. Also, check with local pet stores, animal clinics, veterinarian's offices or libraries to see if they offer or know of pet care workshops for school age and middle school children.

## 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](http://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

Discuss how lessons or concepts can be put into story form to present to children.

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

Separate into small groups of participants. Give each group a different non-fiction animal book and have each group create two age-appropriate follow-up activities to reinforce information in the books. Share the follow-up activities with the whole group.

### Discussion prompts and group activity ideas for parent workshops

Define open-ended questions and discuss how parents can effectively use such questions to foster curiosity and set the stage for learning. Establish an animal subject, such as a family pet, and try out ideas in small groups or pairs of participants.

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

Either in small groups or as a whole, choose factual information and new vocabulary related to a particular interest or hobby that can be addressed through story. Discuss and create a story that will communicate the chosen information and vocabulary to children. Share the stories 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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