

Mission: Literacy

Learning Activities

These are tried-and-true, hands-on learning activities that your children will enjoy. These templates can be used for any story – to highlight vocabulary, to review and to focus on sentence structure and comprehension.

Many more learning games and crafts are suggested in the Curriculum CD for each lesson.

Tip: Label each game with the book number it is for. This will help you pick out games when you use them repeatedly. Games may be kept in a zip-lok bag with the book, copy of the lesson plan, etc.



Word Grid

- Copy the blank word grid template
- Write a new story word onto each square
- Copy your grid with words written in – one per child
- Say a word on the grid
- Children will place a marker on top of that word
- Continue until each word has been covered with a marker

Variation: Allow children to take turns choosing the word to be covered.

Note: This grid holds 25 words. Beginning readers may find it overwhelming to scan over 25 words to find the word to mark. In this case, start by covering all rows except one – look for words in only one row at a time.



Crayons with Matching Pieces

- **Write a new story word onto each crayon**
- **Write the same words onto the matching pieces**
- **Have children match the word on the crayon with the word on the piece**

Variation: Have children take a matched set off of the board, reading the word and then using the word in a sentence.



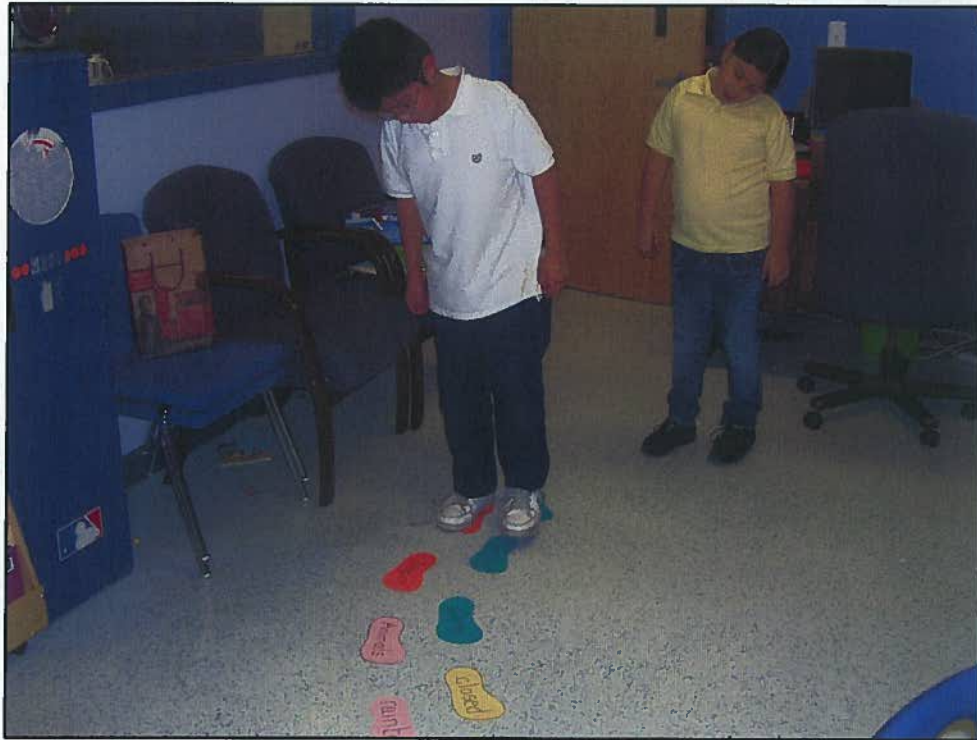
Sentence Strips

- **Make several sentences from a story**
- **Cut each sentence into 2 or 3 sections**
- **Give a child the sections to put into the right order to make a complete sentence.**
- **Repeat with additional sentences**
- **Then put all of the sentences into order as they appear in the story.**

Note: Be careful not to overwhelm a child with too many sentences all at once. For beginning readers, 4 or 5 sentences will be enough to start. As reading ability increases, you can use more sentences. Use a paper clip to hold the sections of each sentence together separately from the other sentences when you store them away.



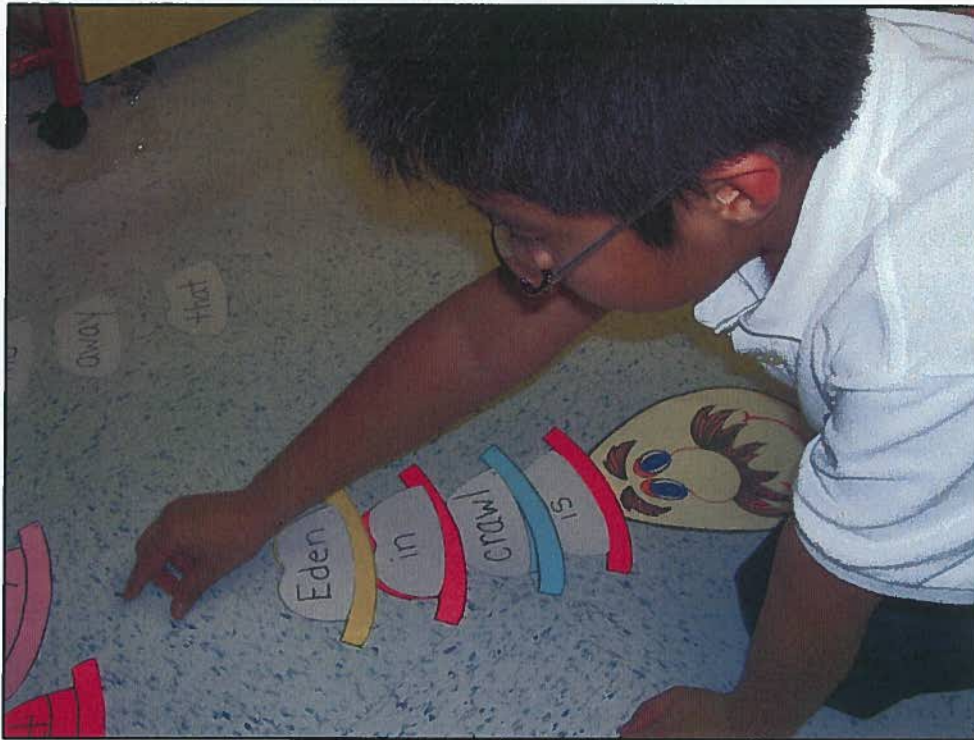
Reading all of the sentences after they have been placed in the sequence each appears in the story.



Word Footprints

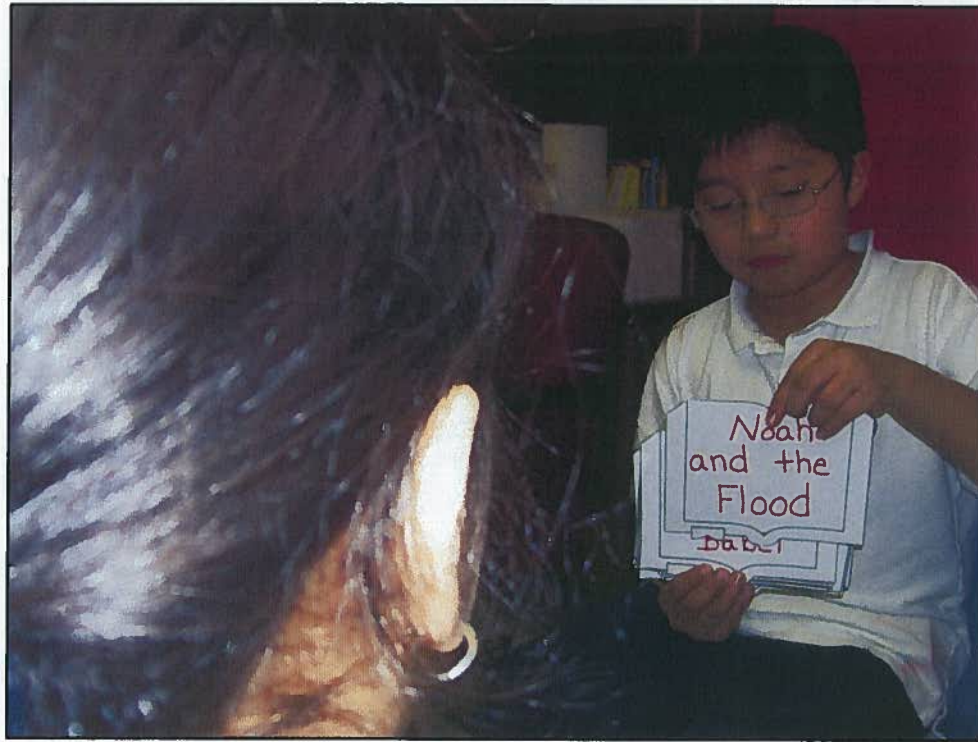
- **Write a story word onto each footprint**
- **Lay footprints on the floor in a path**
- **As a child steps on a print, he reads the word on that print**
- **As the child walks the path of prints he reads all of the words.**

Note: the path of prints grows as a measure of how many words the children are learning so it is a reflection of their progress.



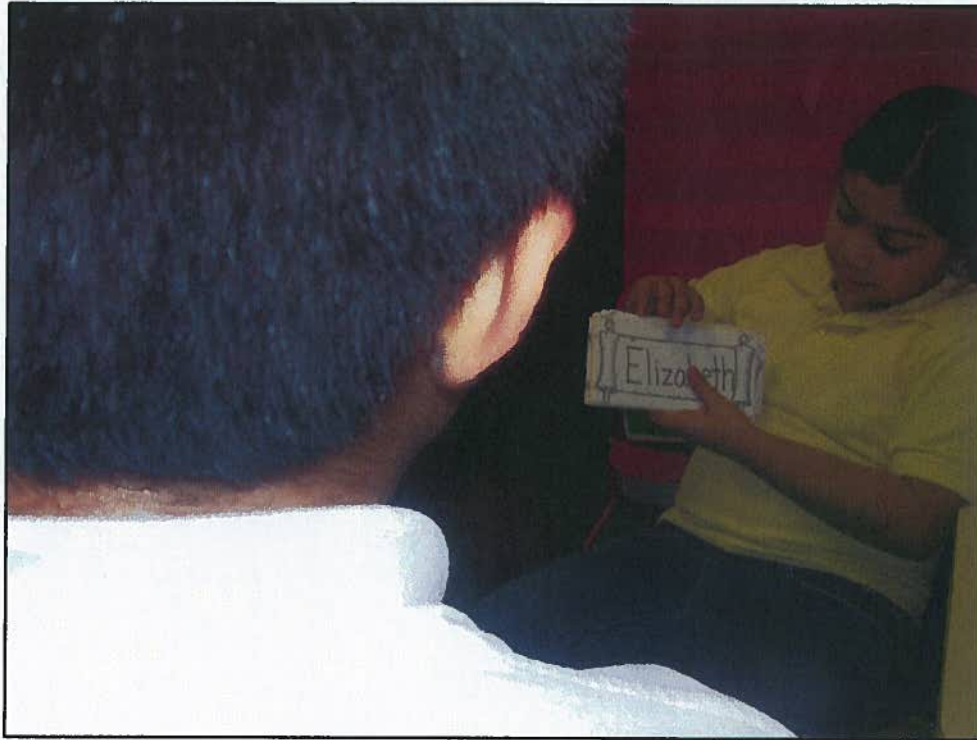
Hat Game

- Write a story word onto each hat
- Write a matching word onto each matching piece
- The child chooses a hat to put onto the man's head, reads the word and places the matching piece on top of the hat.
- Repeat as you pile the hats & matching pieces onto the man's head



Title Flash Cards

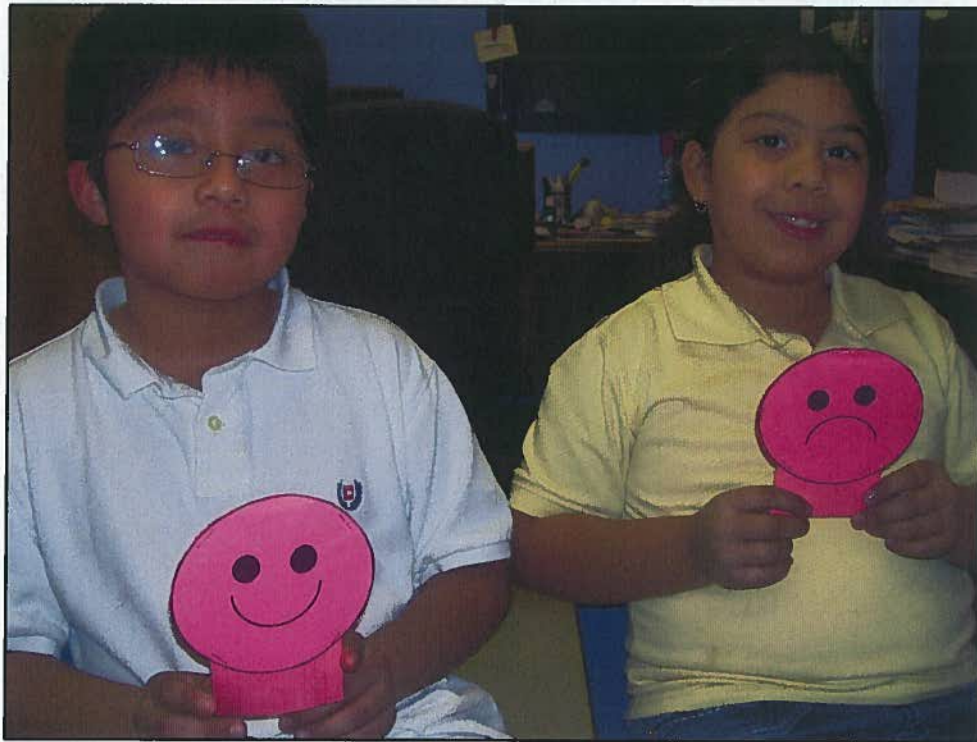
- Write a story title onto each book shape
- Read these as a review of titles and a reinforcement of biblical vocabulary



Proper Noun Flashcards

Names of People and Places in the Bible Stories

- **Write the name of story characters and places onto each scroll**
- **Add scrolls as you read each book**
- **Use as a review and a reinforcement of biblical vocabulary**

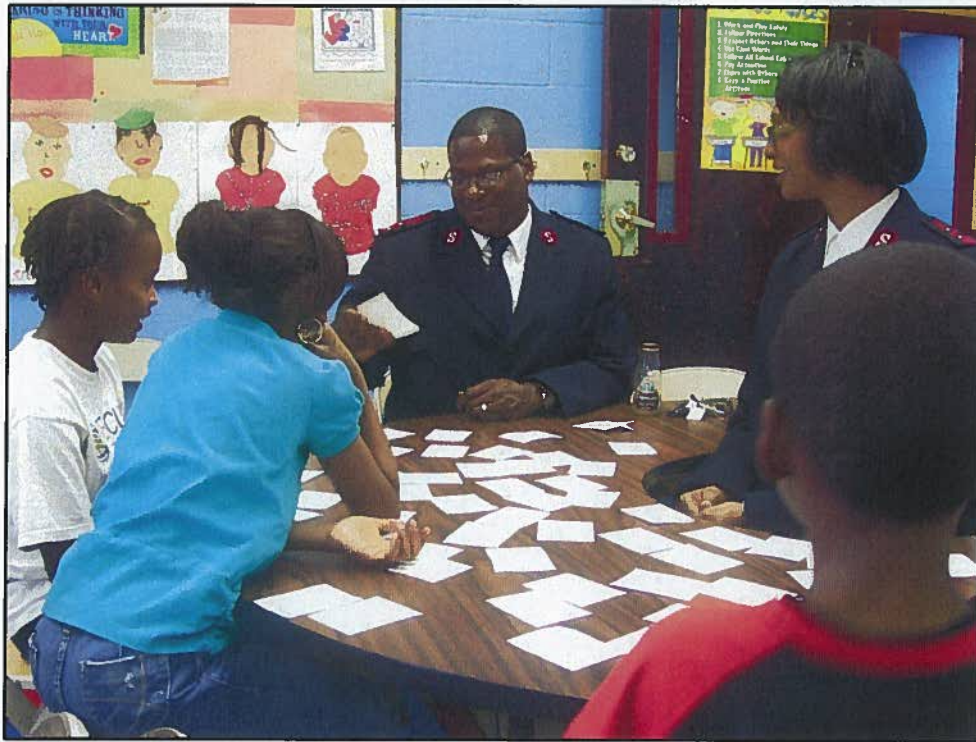


Happy-Sad Puppets

As you read a story to the children, they react to the emotional content of the story by showing you either the happy side of the face or the sad side of the face.

This helps their attention and their comprehension.

Note: Not all stories are good ones for this game – some simply don't have many changes of emotion. As you prepare your lesson, decide if the story has a lot of changes in emotion to make this a good game.



Memory Game

- Write pairs of words onto index cards
- Spread the matching pairs upside down on the table
- Taking turns, each child turns over one card and tries to guess which other card matches it, turning it over to see if it is the right choice
- As cards are turned up, read the words
- Children keep the matching pairs they find in a pile in front of them
- Game ends when all matching pairs have been found

Note: keep the number of word pairs low for early readers and add more for more skilled readers



Letters Into Words

- Write the letters to a story word onto individual pieces of paper
- Scramble the letters
- Child unscrambles the letters to form a word

Note: Beginning readers may need a list of correctly written words to choose from to use to build the word from the letters.