

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING cont.

- Engage children in making books that they can read independently. Children can collect pictures of familiar brand names (such as the front of cereal boxes), photos of children in the group with their names, photos of familiar signs, cultural events, etc. These books can be made from photo albums or stiff paper stapled together.
- Talk about some of the interesting words found in books when reading to children to help build their *vocabulary*.
- Re-read books multiple times, changing the approach as children become familiar with the book. On occasion, ask questions that tap into their understanding of why characters are doing things and talk about the meaning of unfamiliar words.
- Provide experiences that help children learn new words, such as taking field trips and sharing interesting objects.
- Play games that focus on the beginning sounds of words, words that start with the same sounds, as well as words that rhyme.
- When sending books home with children, be sure they are in the *home language* or are dual language books.
- Model and promote positive feelings about reading. Allow children to choose books they want to read. After reading, ask them to talk about why they liked the book.
- Encourage volunteers from the community to assist in reading stories to individuals and small groups.
- Create a connection between home and school through such means as developing a take-home book program, sharing books from home, engaging parents in literacy experiences, holding workshops, or creating a newsletter for parents.
- Include strategies for promoting *phonological awareness*, print and alphabet knowledge within daily conversation, activities and routines.
- Discuss letter names in the context of daily activities (as opposed to teaching one letter per week) and provide opportunities for children to hear specific letter sounds, particularly beginning sounds.
- Make *Venn Diagrams* with older preschoolers showing comparisons between 2 characters in a book or between characters or settings in two different books.

