**Fun With Reading!**

**Book Activities for Preschoolers**

March/April 2018

**Float** by Daniel Miyares is a great example of a wordless book that inspires children to create and use their imagination. A little boy wears his raincoat as he takes a newspaper boat. He shields his boat from a downpour and then floats it on puddles. He chases his boat as the current sweeps it down the storm drain into the stream. There, he fetches his sodden, unfolded boat. He sadly walks home to the comfort of his father’s hug. The sun begins to shine and they once again begin newspaper–folding. They see a jet on the newspaper, and an idea forms. The boy heads outside – ready to launch his new paper plane.

You can help children develop essential early literacy skills by reading, talking, writing, singing and playing with them every day. Use the following suggestions as you share **Float**.

**Ask Open-Ended Questions Before and After Story**

**Before the Story**

- *Introduce the story:* This is a wordless picture book about a boy who loses his paper boat while playing outside after a downpour.
- How can you tell when it’s about to rain?
- What do you wear outside when it rains?
- What do you like to do when it is raining?
- What is the boy playing with in the puddle?
- Have you made paper boats or planes?

**After the Story**

- Was the boy upset when he lost his boat? How could you tell?
- Who do you think helped him feel better?
- What did he do to make the little boy feel better?
- What made the boat move?
- What did the little boy and his father make afterwards?
- What do you like to play in the rain?

**Introduce New Vocabulary and Concepts**

Explaining unfamiliar words and concepts will help expand children’s vocabulary, develop their background knowledge and enhance future read alouds.

- *current:* moving water
- *downpour:* heavy rainfall
- *float:* sits on top of water or air
- *overcast:* heavy cloud cover
- *puddle:* shallow pool of water
- *reflection:* what you see when you look in the mirror
- *stream:* a small river
- *upset:* sad
- *wordless:* no words, just pictures

This book provides a way to talk to children about rain, boats and different feelings.
Engage Preschoolers in Early Literacy Book Extension Activities
Using Float

- Cut out or make five different colored rain boots and write one letter from the word BOOTS on each one. Place the boots on a flannel board. Sing “Boots” (words in next section) to the tune of “Bingo,” removing one letter at a time. Continue singing the song and clapping for the missing letters. You can also change it up by removing the letters out of order or calling out the colors instead of the letters.
- Retell the story. If children are ready to retell the story by themselves, write their words on a “sticky-note” as they are retelling it and attach to the corresponding page. Read their story together afterwards.
- Borrow a book from the library on how to build different paper airplanes and boats. Read the directions together and build different kinds of boats and planes. Discuss which are their favorites and why.
- Make a blank book by folding and stapling a few sheets of paper together. Have crayons and or colored pencils available. Invite children to draw a story about what happens next. If the children are ready to write, let them write the story. Don’t worry about the spelling or punctuation.

Sing Songs and Chant Rhymes About Boats and Rain

Boots
(Tune: “Bingo”)
When it rains and I play outside,
I wear my red rain boots,
B-O-O-T-S,
B-O-O-T-S,
B-O-O-T-S,
I wear my red rain boots!
Remove letters one at a time and continue singing, substituting the correct boot color. Clap for the missing letters. See activity in previous section for more ideas.

It is Raining
(Tune: “Frere Jacques”)
It is raining. It is raining.
On my head. On my head.
Pitter, patter raindrops.
Pitter, patter raindrops.
I’m all wet. I’m all wet.
Continue using other parts of the body.

Five Little Boats
The first little boat went chug, chug, chug.
The second little boat went tug, tug, tug.
The third little boat went row, row, row.
The fourth little boat went oh sooo slooooow.
Here comes the sailboat, watch it go!

Create a Rainstorm
Rub your hands together – the storm is coming in.
Snap your fingers – the rain begins to fall.
Lightly clap your hands – the rain is falling harder.
Clap as loud as you can – it’s pouring rain!
Stomp your feet – thunder rumbles.
Lightly clap your hands – the storm begins to fade...

Row, Row, Row Your Boat
Row, row, row your boat,
Gently down the stream.
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Life is but a dream.

Rock, rock, rock your boat,
Gently to the shore.
If you see a dinosaur,
Don’t forget to roar.

Row, row, row your boat,
Gently down the stream.
If you see a crocodile,
Don’t forget to scream.

Row, row, row your boat,
Gently down the river.
If you see a polar bear,
Don’t forget to shiver.