

Sample Activity

I Love a Mouse



Expressive arts and technology can be used to support children's emergent literacy. The following curriculum activity is based on experiences in a preschool classroom and children's development of basic emergent literacy skills after reading the book, *Look Out Patrick!* (Geraghty, 1990). It was developed to instill an interest in literature. At the computer center, children made a book based on "what happened next" to the mouse, Patrick. The children selected the character they wanted to be; drew their story; and made their character talk, using the computer's microphone to record their voices. The teacher found the children predicting and repeating phrases as the story was read from the book or from the *HyperStudio* stack on the computer. Dramatic play and technology supported this literacy activity. Children enjoyed painting with colors, drawing their story on the computer screen, and recording their story on the computer.

Teacher's Role

Provide a variety of books based on a mouse theme. As children create their own mouse story, expand their interest by reading additional mouse books. Display book jackets of all types of mouse books on the bulletin board. Have appropriate dramatic play props. Make and laminate headbands that represent mice. Make pictures of an eagle, snake, pipe, cat, mouse trap, foot, and an iron.

Outcomes

When participating in this activity, children will . . .

- Attend to a familiar story.
- Use the computer to draw characters and record their voices to create a story on the computer.
- Create props and pictures for dramatic play.
- Author a book created on the computer.
- Talk with peers as they look at books in the reading center or at the computer center.
- Develop skills needed for prediction.
- Predict and repeat phrases from a familiar story.
- Use their creative thinking skills by making up their own stories.

Look Out Patrick! Activity

Materials

- *Look Out Patrick!*
- Dramatic play props
- Computer
- *HyperStudio*
- Color printer
- Optional: External speaker

Procedure

- Read the book *Look Out Patrick!*
- Act out the story using headbands and laminated pictures.
- Make a *HyperStudio* book/stack based on the book, *Look Out Patrick!* Each child uses the tools in *HyperStudio* to draw a picture of something from which Patrick (a mouse) barely escapes. Each child's page contains repetitive text from the book. Choose words such as, "One day Patrick was walking home. It was a beautiful day. All of a sudden a (children would complete the sentence with their own imagination) . . . tried to get him. Oh no, Patrick! Look out! By (child's name)." Children create their own ending.
- The book is printed and used as a take-home book for children to share with their families.
- After all of the children have taken it home, the book is placed in the reading center.