

# THE VOICE



**"Just a little off the top! Cutting Away the Bad Luck For Chinese New Year"**

## Housekeeping

1. March Break - School Closed: Monday 15th - Friday 19th
2. No School: Monday March 22nd
3. World Hearing Day: Wednesday March 3rd
4. Spirit Day: Thursday March 25th



# Promoting Emotional Intelligence: Book Reviews

By: Leela Downton (ECE Owls Class)

Promoting emotional intelligence enables children to identify, evaluate, regulate, and express their feelings.

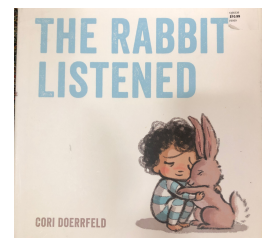
"Name it to tame it" is a phrase Dr. Danial Siegel uses to summarize the complex process of "squirting soothing neurotransmitters" to sooth anger, stress, and anxiety in the brain.

It's important that children feel their experience is respected and valued and that it is safe to express their feelings. They can learn to better manage their emotions when caring adults lend their calm and help them understand their feelings by connecting with them, acknowledging their feelings, and redirecting them.

Three books that help children explore, identify, and express emotions:

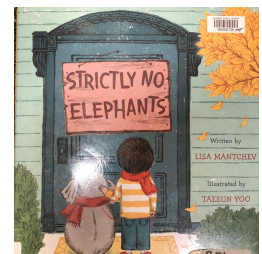
## **The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld:**

Taylor builds an amazing structure, and it comes crumbling down. Having your hard work destroyed is a relatable situation to most children. The Rabbit Listened provides a wonderful way to explore that feeling and discover solutions. Specifically, the role listening plays in acknowledging feelings and what it feels like when a solution is imposed on you.



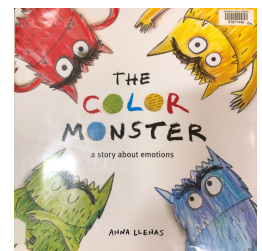
## **Strictly No Elephants by Lisa Mantchev:**

This is a story about a boy who is rejected from the club because he has an unusual pet. This story gives a gentle message about inclusion in a way that's relatable to young children. The story incorporates the refrain "Because that's what friends do," providing opportunities to talk about how things we do and say affect other people.



## **Color Monster by Anna Llenas:**

Color Monster is all mixed up about his feelings and a friend helps him identify and sort them using colors.



## **References:**

- Dalai Lama Center for Peace and Education. (2014, December 8). Dan Siegel: name it to tame it [Video]. YouTube. <https://youtu.be/ZcDLzppD4Jc>
- Moule, J. (2020) Spring semester. Positive guidance class lecture. Vancouver. Langara College



# Foundation For Writing Skills

By: Leela Downton (ECE Owls Class)

## Literacy: The Development of Communication in Written and Oral Communication

According to the British Columbia Early Learning Framework, in cultivating language and literacy skills, it is essential to nurture whole child development, rather than limiting curriculum to only “pre- reading” skills such as learning the alphabet or counting to 10.

Research shows we can be effective literacy teachers when we engage in children’s natural tendencies for creative, hands-on play.

“The interactions need to be lively and engage children. Alphabet toys and phonics programs alone offer little to develop literacy, as they focus on a code without contextual meaning. Words, and their letters and sounds, are best understood when seen and applied in everyday experiences, driven by children’s motivations.” Pauline Harris, Research Chair in Early Childhood, University of South Australia

## The Development of Printing Skills Is a Sequential Process That Begins in Early Childhood

The building blocks of writing readiness:

### Hand and finger strength:

Ways to gain hand and finger strength include picking up small objects; beading on yarn, pipe cleaners, or skewers; pinching, squeezing, and kneading playdough or clay; and drawing with a finger in sand, dirt, or on textured surfaces.



### Hand-eye coordination:

Children are continuously developing their hand-eye coordination and some common activities that help to fine-tune it are throwing and catching a ball using scissors, and self-care activities.

### Object manipulation:

Using a toothbrush, holding kitchen utensils, holding paintbrush and marker, and brushing hair are some everyday that provide opportunities for object manipulation.

# Foundation For Writing Skills: Continued

## Crossing the midline:

Crossing the midline promotes the coordination and communication of the left and right hemisphere of the brain-- encourages bilateral coordination—the process of developing a dominant hand and development of fine-motor skills. Activities that encourage crossing the midline include painting at an easel using only one hand, banging objects together in the middle, popping bubbles, putting stickers on one side of body and having child remove them with their opposite hand, and drawing large figure eights with a pencil, hand or foot on paper or sand or, in the air.



## Upper body strength:

Playful ways to build upper body strength include climbing playground structures, playing catch, doing the wheelbarrow, and drawing on vertical surfaces.



## What Print Awareness and Literacy in the Curriculum Looks Like

Promoting early print and literacy skills in early childhood should be based on play based, hands- on experiences that occur throughout the day.

- Providing a wide range of activities, not limited to learning letters and numbers.
- Engaging the whole body and encouraging movement as much as possible.
- Modelling speech and print and enthusiasm for attempts at print by educators.

## References:

Dawson, A. (2019). ECED1101 Fall class Print and literacy development [PowerPoint slides]. Langara collage.  
Hand-Eye Coordination - Toddlerhood, Preschool years, School-aged children. Toddlerhood, Preschool years, School-aged children - Developmental Reading, Objects, and Months - JRank Articles.  
<https://psychology.jrank.org/pages/294/Hand-Eye-Coordination.html>.

What is 'midline' and why is 'crossing the midline' important for your child's brain development? Centre Of Movement. (2020, February 12). <https://www.centreofmovement.com.au/what-is-midline-and-why-is-crossing-the-midline-important-for-your-childs-brain-development/>.





## March Theme:



"Up & Away!"



There are three **BIG** ideas:

The sky looks  
different during the  
day than it does at  
night.

1

There are natural  
things in the sky and  
there are man made  
things in the sky.

2

Changes in the  
weather makes the  
sky look different.

3

## What's Included in This Theme?

- Songs: Zoom, Zoom, Zoom from Barefoot books; Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
- Concepts: hot air balloons, rockets, kites, wind moves things, rainbows
- Weather: clouds, spring
- Space: planets, satellites, stars



# Kids Corner

This Month we have a fantastic game to play, created by our fabulous SLP Rita!



© Rita SLP



## Up in the Air!



### Make a Scene.

- Print out one copy each page (use cardstock if available). If you are using the black and white pages, your child can help to colour in the pictures.
- Cut out the individual pictures and arrange them on the table in front of you and your child.
- Take turns choosing pictures to place onto the background page to make a scene together. Talk about what is happening and where the pictures are going!

### Barrier Game.

- Print out two copies of each page (two backgrounds and two picture pages- use cardstock if available). If you are using the black and white pages, your child can help to colour in the pictures.
- Cut out the individual pictures. Give one background page and one set of pictures to your child, and keep another set for yourself.
- Sit across from each other and set up a "barrier" between you. You could use a large book, a box, or even a file folder- anything to block the other person's view so you can keep your page a secret!
- Take turns giving instructions about where to put the pictures into the scene. The goal is to make your pictures look the same, so it will be important to give clear instructions!
- Check in after each instruction to make sure your pictures match.

Have fun!

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