

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2023

Connecting Children with Nature

A Week of Reading Engagement Activities!

One of the most effective ways for educators to encourage language development and emergent literacy in young children **is to engage them in storybook reading**. Children can begin to reap the benefits of storybook reading in infancy! Hearing and participating in a storybook reading is a great way for children to become familiar with the world around them. But literacy experiences can encompass so much more than just reading aloud. We can also incorporate hands-on book extension activities with the books that we read!

Book extensions are activities that help bring a book to life. Book extensions can be art exploration, science experiments, movement games – anything that gives children the opportunity to explore the themes and concepts of a book. Children can partake in different methods of learning to help them connect ideas from a book to their world. Book extensions enrich children's experience by helping them become more familiar with the story and its characters, its colors, themes, and all it has to offer as they connect it to their world. The options are nearly endless.

READ all week long! Did you know that when you read the same book to children many times, each reading helps deepen their understanding of the meanings in the story? Adding a different extension each time you re-read a book is a great way to keep children engaged and making new connections between the story and their world. Enjoy!

Here are some ideas for book extensions that will engage children with one of the books DIEEC has provided...all week long! The ideas on the next page are each introduced on a particular day to serve as an example, but please take your time with each activity and allow children to engage as long as they are interested – even if an activity sticks around for a few days or more! And of course, you can always use a combination of these ideas with any book, all year round.



MONDAY Just Read!	Read the book over and over . Read using made-up voices for characters, read in a rhythm, read outside, or anywhere...just read!
TUESDAY Read and Create!	Art experiences that are open-ended where the process is more important than the product are most beneficial for young children. Incorporate the book for inspiration and provide different types of art materials for the children to explore.
WEDNESDAY Read and Sensory Play!	Books can inspire all sorts of activities that involve feeling, smelling, looking, listening, and tasting . A book about the jungle can be extended to sand play or water play with jungle animal figurines. Does the book talk about muddy puddles? Make some mud! Cooking is also a fantastic sensory activity.
THURSDAY Read and Move and Pretend!	Creative movement , whether it is dancing, doing a yoga pose, or dramatic play inspired by the story, is a wonderful way to explore the concepts in a book. You and the children could also pretend to be creatures from a book, dress up like the characters, or put on thematically related puppet shows. Implement ideas through a diversity lens. Extend themes and concepts through dramatic play!
FRIDAY Read and Explore!	Connect the concepts in the book to the child's life. Take a walk in your community and notice things that relate to the book. Find additional books, magazines, or pictures on the topic. Maybe take a field trip! The more you can connect a book to the children's experiences , the more they can blend the new information with their existing knowledge base – which leads to deeper understanding.