



## Center for Early Literacy Learning

For **CLASSROOM-BASED** early childhood educators

# Additional skill-building exercises to help teachers provide **everyday literacy activities**

Thank you for accessing these additional exercises to support utilization of the CELL Early Literacy Learning Model. Three practice activities are provided below to help teachers develop skills in providing everyday literacy opportunities based on children's daily routines and activities.

The exercises offer teachers ways to practice, evaluate, and reflect about the literacy-rich potential of everyday routines. The intent is to take these practice activities into the classroom to provide teachers with an authentic, hands-on experience utilizing components of the CELL learning model.

### Exercise 1

#### Activity:

Think about daily activities such as meal time, outdoor play, classroom play within learning centers, toileting and diapering, etc. Now think about ways you can incorporate literacy within those daily routines. Write down these literacy ideas and use with children this week.

#### Evaluate:

- How many opportunities did children have to participate in literacy activities during the daily routine?
- Which literacy activities were formal? Which literacy activities were informal?
- How did the children participate in the literacy activities? What opportunities did children have to explore print? What opportunities did children have to explore language?
- How did you support children in exploring the literacy activities?

#### Reflect:

Thinking about the literacy activities you just provided during a daily routine answer the following questions:

- Were you able to increase **how often** children get to participate in everyday early literacy learning activities?
- Were you able to increase **the number** of everyday early literacy learning activities?  
Were you able to increase **the variety** of early literacy learning opportunities?
- Were you able to increase **participation** in those literacy activities that occur frequently and provide lots of literacy learning opportunities?



Exercise 2, continued

Playing with alphabet letters/ letter stamps	Acting out stories	Listening to and talking about favorite stories
Coloring pictures	Dictating stories about friends, activities, dreams	Having "conversations" with dolls, stuffed animals
Using finger paints	Doing fingerplays	Looking at books
Making books of pictures or photographs	Looking at picture books	Playing games (for example, board games, word games)
Making up rhymes, songs, etc.	"Writing" and drawing with sidewalk chalk	Singing songs
"Writing" or scribbling on paper	"Drawing" maps for trucks, buildings, treasure hunts	Reading signs when taking walks

Exercise 2, continued

<p>"Writing" and reading on computers</p>	<p>Using recipes, menus, etc., in the cooking area</p>	<p>Drawing with crayons or markers</p>
<p>Making signs for the classroom and class activities</p>	<p>Using play dough, silly putty</p>	<p>"Writing" notes, letters, or journals</p>
<p>Dressing up in costumes and making up stories</p>	<p>Listening to and saying nursery rhymes, children's poems</p>	<p>Telling stories with puppets</p>
<p>Telling stories with a storyteller</p>	<p>Other: _____</p>	<p>Other: _____</p>

<p><b>TOP CLASS INTERESTS:</b></p>		
<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Evaluate:**

- How often did the activities occur throughout the day?
- How did these activities provide opportunities for language learning?
- How did these activities provide opportunities for practicing literacy skills?
- What was your role within the activities? In what ways were you involved in the formal activities? In what ways were you involved in the informal activities? Did the children respond differently to the informal versus formal activities? How so?

**Reflect:**

***By using the daily schedule to plan formal and informal literacy activities . . .***

- Were you able to increase **how often** children get to participate in interest-based everyday early literacy learning activities?
- Were you able to increase **the number** of interest-based everyday early literacy learning activities?
- Were you able to increase **the variety** of early literacy learning opportunities?
- Were you able to increase **participation** in those literacy activities that occur frequently and provide lots of literacy learning opportunities?