



Center for Early Literacy Learning

For **HOME-BASED** early childhood educators

Additional skill-building exercises to support home-based educators in recognizing and using **EVERYDAY LITERACY** learning opportunities in **EVERYDAY HOME AND FAMILY ROUTINES**

The practice activities below provide follow-up support to assist early intervention practitioners and home visitors to identify everyday literacy opportunities that naturally occur within a family's daily routine.

These exercises provide early childhood professionals with more opportunities to practice, evaluate, and reflect about everyday literacy activities. The intent is to take these exercises into the home and community to provide the practitioner with an authentic, hands-on experience utilizing the components of the CELL (Center for Early Literacy Learning) model.

Exercise 1

Activity:

Consider the interests you identified for the child from the skill-building exercises for Child Interests. Select one of the child interests that you identified. **Document** how you will provide many opportunities for the child to explore that interest (**breadth**) and how you will expand on early literacy learning within the activities (**depth**).

Example from the CELL training: *A child is interested in trains so you make available books, songs and activities about trains (breadth). When a child is playing with trains, ask questions about where the train is going and what the train is carrying; add people or traffic signs (depth).*

Provide these everyday literacy learning opportunities to the child during your next home visit.

Evaluate:

- In what ways did you provide breadth and depth related to the child's interest?
- How did the activities help the child practice **emerging** language and literacy abilities?
- Could the activities support the child in developing **new** language/literacy abilities? How?
- Was the child able to repeat the activities over and over if interested? How did the child respond during the activities? How did the child participate within the activity?

Reflect:

Were you able to do the following?

- Increase **how often** the child gets to participate in interest-based everyday early literacy learning activities?
- Increase the **number** of interest-based everyday literacy learning activities?
- Increase the **variety** of interest-based everyday literacy learning activities?
- Increase **participation** in those activities that occur frequently and provide lots of early literacy learning opportunities?
- How will you support the parent in understanding and using everyday literacy activities to promote his/her child's early literacy abilities?

Exercise 2

Activity:

Select a family with which you will explore everyday literacy learning. Talk with the family about their daily or weekly routines. Next, talk with the family about their child's interests.

Use the ***Interest-Based Everyday Literacy Activity Checklist*** tool to help the parent(s) identify everyday literacy activities and routines that his/her child finds interesting. Assist the parent in thinking about ways to provide literacy learning opportunities within the everyday routines and activities.

For example: A child loves eating at a restaurant every Saturday night. The child's parent can provide an everyday literacy opportunity by reading the menu to the child, or inviting the child to "read" the menu.

See a portion of the checklist on the next page. The complete checklist is available for free download at www.earlyliteracylearning.org.

Evaluate:

- How do the everyday activities provide the child with opportunities to practice emerging literacy abilities?
- How will the child participate in the everyday literacy activity?
- How will the parent support his/her child's participation in the activity?
- How will the parent know the child is interested in the activity?

Reflect:

Were you able to do the following?

- Increase **how often** the child gets to participate in interest-based everyday early literacy learning activities?
- Increase the **number** of interest-based everyday literacy learning activities?
- Increase the **variety** of interest-based everyday literacy learning activities?

- Increase **participation** in those activities that occur frequently and provide lots of early literacy learning opportunities?
- How did you support the parent in understanding and using everyday literacy activities to promote his/her child's early literacy abilities?

Interest-Based Everyday Literacy Activity Checklist (sample items)

This activity...	Is my child's interest	Would be interesting to my child	This activity...	Is my child's interest	Would be interesting to my child
Adult and child playtimes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Having "conversations" with a doll or stuffed animal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending children's concerts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Having pretend phone conversations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending puppet shows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Helping mom or dad "read" favorite stories	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending religious/spiritual services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Holiday dinners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending religious activities for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Listening to bedtime stories	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being part of mealtime conversations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Listening to or singing music/ favorite songs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child/parent book reading times	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Listening to nursery rhymes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Choosing books at the library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Listening to or saying prayers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cooking or preparing meals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Listening to storytellers/story times	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cutting/tearing pictures from a magazine or catalog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Listening to religious or spiritual readings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dictating letters or shopping lists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Listening to TV phrases/jingles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doing art activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Looking at alphabet books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawing in sand or dirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Looking at books like "Mother Goose" or "Dr. Seuss"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eating out	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Looking at catalogs, magazines, or newspapers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family gatherings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Looking at family photos or favorite pictures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family talks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Looking at picture books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Going food shopping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Making a shopping list or "to do" list	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Going on a neighborhood walk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Going to library/bookstore story times	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Going on nature walks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Exercise 3

Activity:

After you assist the parent in identifying his/her child's interests, use the Daily Schedule tool format below to help the parent identify opportunities throughout the day during which he/she can provide interest-based literacy activities.

Evaluate:

- What literacy activities did the parent identify that he/she could provide related to the child's interests?
- What literacy activities did the parent identify that he/she could provide during daily routines?
- How often is the parent able to provide interest-based literacy activities for his/her child?
- How will the parent know the child is "engaged" in the activity?

Reflect:

Were you and the parent(s) able to do the following?

- Increase **how often** the child gets to participate in interest-based everyday early literacy learning activities?
- Increase the **number** of interest-based everyday literacy learning activities?
- Increase the **variety** of interest-based everyday literacy learning activities?
- Increase **participation** in those activities that occur frequently and provide lots of early literacy learning opportunities?
- How will you support the parent in reflecting on his/her practice of using everyday literacy activities to support his/her child?

TIME	ACTIVITY SETTINGS						