

Learning Through Play

Introducing Literacy Through Interactive Activities



Objectives:

- To understand the purpose of news sharing and journal writing activities.
- Understand how to introduce the following core activities for the literacy circle:
 - **News Sharing** – how to implement
 - **Personal Journal** – how to make and implement



What is news sharing and journal writing activities?

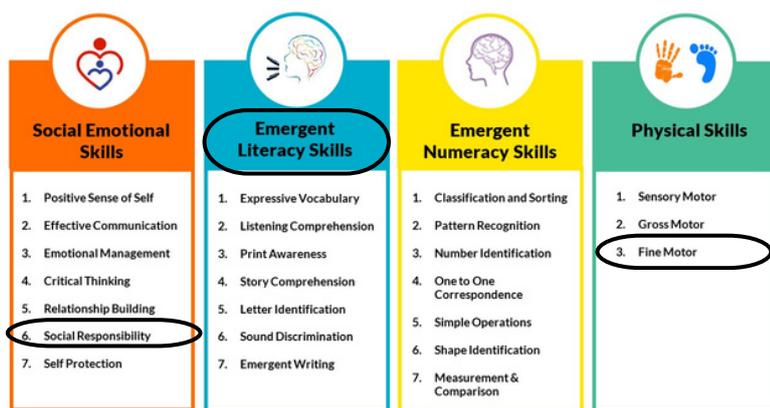
Literacy activities include talking, listening, reading, and writing which are integrated into every activity. Literacy circle is focused on developing 7 emergent literacy skills.

- **News sharing** gives children an opportunity to talk about an activity they saw, did, or thought about since the last time they were at the ECD programme.
- **Journal writing** gives children an opportunity to convey the same information using drawing or writing.

Why do we use news sharing and story writing?

- Talking, listening, and sharing experiences helps children to develop an interest in others' lives.
- Children develop skills in communicating their ideas and develop a sense of self-esteem as they feel important when others listen to them.
- These activities also develop fine muscle coordination, drawing and pre-writing skills, and vocabulary development.

Learning Skills Set



How to implement literacy circle activities?

There are three main activities for literacy circle group time, news sharing, journal writing and a discussion about a theme or topic. One activity is chosen for each day of the week.

News Sharing

- Children talk to the child next to them.
- After a minute or two, the teacher chooses two children to share their news or the teacher asks the child of the day if they would like to share some news.
- After the news has been shared the Child of the Day can select two children to ask a question.
- Speaker answers the questions the children asked.



Journal Writing



- Teacher talks about journal writing and asks children to think about what they would like to draw. Journal writing can be done on the mat area or at a table with groups of children together.
- Teacher prepares the room for journal writing by placing the journals on the tables for children. Children move from the circle to the tables in small groups to find their journal. This helps children learn to recognise their name. The teacher puts the journals close to the mat areas of the children will do the activity on the mat.
- Encourages children to draw a picture about what they did, saw or thought.
- Teacher can move around and ask children if they want the teacher to write a sentence about their drawing. The child tells the teacher what words they would like the teacher to write.

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Adapting News Sharing and Journal Writing for Children with Diverse Needs

- Caregivers care to use a communication book for children who are non-verbal. They can write a story or news event in the journal and the child can draw pictures during journal writing.
- The teacher can also use this story to share with the group if the child is unable to talk. For a child with a communication device, it can be used to tell a story or join pictures together to tell their news.
- Pictures on the side of the daily routine help children know which activity is occurring.

Reflection questions for teachers about literacy activities

- What strategies do you use to encourage children to talk about daily events in their life, linking the ECD with their home life, remembering tips from conversational talk?
- What other strategies will you use to include children with diverse learning needs, those with impairments, from ethnic communities or at a different stage of development in literacy activities like news sharing and to write their journals?
- What did you learn from the video that you will add to your daily practice to encourage journal writing and news sharing with children?