

LANGAUGE EXPERIENCE APPROACH (LEA)

1. Provide the experience

LEA begins with an actual shared experience. (Ex. Field trip, cooking, observing an animal, an event on the playground, something memorable) This will need to be staged earlier in the morning or the previous day. Plan this with the teachers.

2. Discuss the experience.

As children talk about their experiences, they clarify and organize ideas, use more specific vocabulary and extend understanding. Talk until the experience has been thoroughly discussed.

3. Solicit a direct quote from a single child.

Tell the children they are going to help you turn this experience into a story.

Record the dictation on either a chart tablet or sentence strip. Model good penmanship! It is critical that the exact words of the child be written, even if the grammar or construction is incorrect. To do otherwise confuses the beginning reader/writer. The important point is that the teacher's writing shows the connection of the child's language to print. As you write, say each word aloud. Incorporate some Print Concepts and comment as they naturally occur. (note -Do not belabor this part of the process or children will get bored.)

- Where to start
- Spacing between words (child can use their finger/hand/spacer)
- Starting with a capital/tall/big letter
- Left to right directionality
- Return sweep
- Punctuation
- Letters found in children's names
- Letters, words and sentences
- Formation of a letter

4. Read the text from the chart tablet or sentence strips

After the text has been dictated, read it aloud, pointing to each word. Reread the quote and encourage children to choral read with the teacher.

5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 for each child in the group

Progress through the steps as quickly as possible. A large group may require more than one setting or session. Some children may choose not to participate. Some will want to contribute often and need to be reminded that they had a turn. (Take the advice of the cooperating teachers on this step)

6. Read the WHOLE text after all the individual contributors have recorded quotes.

Reread the story and again encourage children to choral read with you.

7. Display the story and read with small groups when interested