

Professional Development Final Report

"All Children Are Poets: They Just Don't Know It"
NAEYC Subject Area: Curriculum – Language and Literacy

Conference Presenters

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Narrative Description of the Conference

One major goal of the conference was to convince attendees (usually teachers) that writing poetry with children isn't that difficult at all. Once children begin to understand rhyming words and word families, they can learn to write even simple four line poetry. Children love rhyming words and enjoy identifying rhyming words in story books. They enjoy word families and begin to see how these word families help them become more effective readers. They also realize that word families are "rhymes" all in themselves.

A PowerPoint was used at the conference. **The PowerPoint is attached to this document (in outline form).** In the session, background information was given defining what a rhyme is and different types of rhymes. Different types word families were covered for the five vowels. The Scholastic Rhyming Dictionary was introduced and passed out to attendees. This particular publication was recommended as the best choice for teachers to use in their classrooms. Not only can the teacher use these color-coded dictionaries, children can become skilled in using them too.

Although first graders can begin to use rhyming words and write simple 2-line and 4-line poetry, the conference was geared toward second and third graders. At this age, children know more rhymes and can use them more efficiently.

The main presenter went over several of his own poems that have been turned into lyrics for songs published with the FJH Music Company, Inc. (Fort Lauderdale, FL). He advocated the use of simple poetry being converted into music (songs children could sing). He mentioned a new publication of his own, "Kid-Friendly Songs" that uses his rhyming lyrics from the powerpoint.

During the last segment of the conference, participants/attendees wrote their own individual poetry and shared the poetry with the audience. Attendees were also given "prompts" to write with. Attendees enjoyed hearing others poems, quickly written in this interactive conference.

Overall, both presenters believe the conference was successful. The goals of the conference were met, disseminating important information in the field of early childhood education. Clear and practical information was presented that could be useful immediately to teachers in regular classrooms.

- Poetry for Young Children
 - Early Childhood
 - 1-3 grades
 - Which Words Should You Rhyme?

- One way is to rhyme the last word (or syllable) of the poem.
 - *My family has a cat.*
 - *He's really really fat*
 - *He sat on daddy's hat.*
 - *Now Daddy's hat is flat.*

- You don't have to rhyme the last word or syllable of every line. You can rhyme the last word of every other line. Here is an example.

*Hercules avoided
Baths and showers all week long.
Though it left him awfully dirty,
No one every smelled so strong!*

- Other suggestions to consider...
 - You could rhyme only the third and fourth lines.
 - The first and second lines could rhyme, then the following third and fourth lines could have another rhyme.
 - One syllable word families are the best rhymes!
 - good, hood, should, stood, wood
 - dong, gong, long, song, strong, thong
 - if, cliff, miff, sniff, stiff, whiff
 - brick, chick, click, kick, lick, quick, sick

ice, dice, lice, mice, nice, price, rice
blew, blue, boo, brew, chew, clue

- Two word “word families” work well for smart kids!
 - user, bruiser, chooser, cruiser, loser
 - blurb, curb, herb, verb, disturb
 - bunny, funny, honey, money, sunny
 - bumper, drummer, dumber
 - crumble, humble, jumble, fumble
 - mother, brother, smother, another
 - Rhyming is simple!
 - A rhyme is when two words end with the same sound.
 - The best rhymes are “perfect rhymes that use only one or two ending syllables that sound exactly alike!”
 - Yet, *is there another kind of rhyme?*
 - Yes!
- SLANT RHYMES**
- Slant rhymes are also commonly used. A “slant rhyme” shares the same vowel sound but has different ending consonant sounds.
 - Bat – bad (short a vowel sound)
 - Hit – lick (short i vowel sound)
 - More slant rhymes...
 - like – kite – side (long i vowel sound)
 - bake – wade – same (long a sound)
 - lick – lid – sit – (short i sound)
 - sat – sad – man – (short a sound)
 - rock – sought – rod – (short o sound)
 - bad – sat – fat – (short a sound)
 - The most important suggestion to follow...
 - “If the rhyme sounds good to you, use it!” Use the rhyme that you like!
 - Children naturally choose perfect rhymes, yet they are very forgiving. Their ears still gravitate toward the vowel sounds they hear!!!
 - What kinds of poetry do children like the most?
 - They like poetry which makes them giggle..
 - They like poems about real happenings in their lives.
 - They like poems they understand!
 - They like funny poems with a surprise ending and a punch line!

- What do kids like?
- They have fun clapping to the poetry.
 - They enjoy meter and rhyme.

- They like to hear a melody added to the poems they write.

- Today, the poetry we will go over has been copyrighted and will be used in children's piano books!

***The following poems were written by Kevin Costley.

- Boss for a Week

I know I'm just a kid,
And sometimes need a boss.
At times I forget things,
And have some hearing loss.

I wish I were a grownup, though,
And had a big physique.
I'd raise my voice and shout the rules,
And be BOSS FOR A WEEK!

I know that I could do it,
I'd have so much fun!
I'd be very bossy and,
Make kids jump and run!

I'd act just like a royal King,
Or a lovely Queen.
Give me a chance to prove it,
I'd be BOSS FOR A WEEK!

- One Hungry Cat

There was one hungry cat,
Who ate and ate all day.
She lived in the barnyard,
On a farm and slept on hay.

All she did was eat, eat, eat,
And sniff and hunt for food.
She looked all over day and night,
And was a sneaky, "SNOOP!"

That fat cat ate so much,

She said she'd eat no more.
Then she ate some jumping beans,
And leaped right off the floor!

She jumped and screeched and screamed so loud,
Until we thought she'd die.
She said, "*I'll never eat again!*
HA HA, a BIG WHITE LIE !"

- **What is for Dinner?**

What is for dinner?
I'm hungry; I'm hungry!
I wish Mom would speed up
And get food for me.

What are we having?
We having? We having?
I hope it's some pizza,
That's fit for a King.

I like Pepperoni,
All piled with anchovies.
Canadian bacon,
Is just fine with me.

My stomach is growling,
Is growling, is growling.
Just take a big X-ray,
And then you will see!

- **Chocolate Cake**

Choc-late cake, choc-late cake,
My favorite cake to eat!
It's ooey and it's gooey,
And yummy, yummy sweet.

When we have supper,
In our house at night to eat.
I really go overboard,
And eat more cake than meat.

I sometimes get embarrassed,

When I'm caught with too much cake.
My brothers and my sisters often,
Call me, "SNEAKY SNAKE!"

I'm not ashamed of what I do,
So long they have a piece.
I simply love, "CHOC-LATE CAKE",
So what? Call the police!!!

- When Will We Get There?

I love to go on trips,
To places far away.
The ride is sometimes long,
We often stop half way.

My Mom and Dad get very tired,
Hearing me say,
*"When will we get there?
We've driven night and day!"*

They tell me to be patient,
They say, "We're close to town!"
*"We're almost there, comb your hair,
Get ready to count down."*

Now we're getting closer,
To our final destination.
*"When will we get there?
We're changing our location."*

To make the trip go faster,
There's one thing I declare.
I'll never ever say again,
"When will we get there?"

- I'm a Little Angel

I'm a little angel,
Perfect as can be.
Everyone just loves me,
Like a Christmas tree.

I'm perfect in so many ways,

That you will never see.
Would you like to be,
An angel like me?

You may think I'm bragging,
When I tell you this.
My life is strangely nothing,
But perfect bliss.

If you want to be,
A little angel like me.
Stay right by my side,
And you will succeed!

Now if you think,
I'm an angel like I say.
Give me fifty bucks,
And I'll sell the Milky Way!!!

- Picked For The Team
I'm not so good at baseball,
I'm not so good at sports.
I play piano better,
I love music of course.

I really want to play,
On the baseball team this year.
I want to hit a homerun,
And hear my Daddy cheer!

I really want the chance,
To be picked for the team.
I'll surprise all my friends,
And make true all my dreams.

I promise to still practice,
My piano everyday.
Please pick me for the team,
I know I'll do OKAY!

- Other titles you could use may be...
- Everything Changes
- I've Got to Dance Tonight!
- It's Beginning to Snow

- One Little Snowman
- I CAN!
- I Just Forgot
- More possible titles...
- Me and My Brother
- Just Go to Bed!
- We Have a New Baby!
- Just For You
- Me and My Babysitter
- What Do I Want To Be When I Grow Up?
- More possible titles...
- It's Time to Play
- The Outfoxed Fox
- We're Going on Vacation
- Look at Me!
- Bedtime Fun
- My Lucky Day
- More possible titles...
- Dressing Up
- Here Comes the School Bus
- My Good Luck Glasses
- Where is my Puppy?
- Let's Pretend
- Don't Make Your Teacher Mad
- More possible titles...
- I Have a Loose Tooth
- There's a Giant in the Forest