

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMPANY WORDS

PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

Ask each child to choose a letter. Draw it as a bubble letter and invite the child to turn it into a letter-character, with crayons, colored pencils, paint, or collage. Ask them to describe its personality, quirks, strengths, and weaknesses. Caption the art with quotes from each child.

Ask each child to choose a word that they can envision as a superhero. It can be any word at all. Love. Pride. Cake. Mom. It could even be their own name! Write the word in big, bubbly letters. Invite children to embellish the word, by giving it a face or clothing or adding color or scenery around it. Ask them what its superpowers are and caption the art with their quotes.

Ask each child to choose a word that they find scary. They can choose any word, except someone's name. Write the word vertically in big, bubbly letters and have the children embellish it, giving it a face or clothing, and adding color or scenery around it.

Have children choose a feeling word and create a hand puppet that represents it. The children can then use them for pretend play.

Have each child choose a word and make a mask to represent it. Masks can be used in dramatic play.

During circle, learn and practice songs together. Ask the kids questions about how the lyrics make them feel and the images these lyrics bring up in their minds.

Offer a unit on children's poetry. At the end of the unit, write a poem collectively in circle, with each child contributing a word or line. The poems can be silly, serious, or sweet. They can rhyme, if the children are ready for that, but they don't have to.

Interactive reading. In small reading groups or individually, work through a story, pausing after every few sentences to pose questions that invoke empathy. How do we suspect each character feels. Do we understand the choices each character has made?

Play charades

Pass around a basket filled with letter blocks and covered with a cloth. Have each child select a block blindly, then think of a descriptive word that begins with that letter.

Pass around a basket filled with letter blocks and covered with a cloth. Have each child select a block blindly, then think of an action word that begins with that letter.

Share a snack. Then ask each child to think of a different word that they would use to describe it to someone who has never had it before. Try to come up with as many words as possible, and try to make the words specific (not just "yummy" or "yucky").

Ask each child to think of one word that could be a friend to them for the day. Imagine they are putting that word in their pocket and see if they can remember it later.