



Oak Journal

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The literacy bug has bitten the Oak Class! It seems every day now it's only a matter of minutes before the Art Table is full of children writing cards for each other, for their family, and even occasionally for their teachers. "How do you spell..." is probably the most common phrase I am hearing lately, and as a teacher of young children, it's a question that never gets old. The class is becoming so confident in their writing skills, that many friends have even taken it upon themselves to start sounding out the words on their own, impressing us with their growing phonemic

awareness and budding literacy skills.

We are now constantly looking for ways to continue encouraging this love of learning through continuous observation and reflection. What is it that is making these kids excited to write and read? How can we help support their literacy development in a way that continues to be exciting for them? How can we look for ways for them to learn independently as well?

We've noticed that for many children in this class, the motivation lies in friendships, storytelling, and animal exploration. Friends yearn to make things for one another, so they seek out name tags to write one another's names. Imaginations encourage the art of sharing oral stories through dramatic play. Investigators want to know more about how to classify animals, and so we seek out a book that will help us find out.

Every one of these children are developing their literacy skills without even realizing it! So what are some ways to continue encouraging this at home?



Share stories at mealtime. Providing prompts like: “what was your hardest part of the day?” can help encourage children to share their own stories. This class seems to enjoy solving mysteries, as well, so looking for unanswered questions they can investigate seems to prompt their need to share.



Record your child's stories. They can then copy the stories for themselves, illustrate them, and eventually turn it into their own book! Many children have been eager to share their homemade books during our Morning Meetings.

Involve your children in activities where you use literacy. For example, if you're writing a shopping list you can spell out the items as you write them down. *(If they go to the store with you, you could then search for the letters as you look for the items on the list!)*



Guide literacy in your child's play. Follow their lead! If they are pretending to set up a meal, maybe you could ask them to write a menu for you to choose from.

Of course these are only a few suggestions, and there are many other ways to promote literacy during your time together. What are some of the ways your family practices literacy?

Activities

Alphabet Line
Self-Portraits
Playdough Textures
Sky Painting
Tree Collage

Materials

Sharpies
Loose Parts
Playdough & tools
Watercolor
Tissue Paper & Glue