

Child's Play: A Catalyst for Literacy and Numeracy Learning

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Background:

Using our knowledge of developmentally appropriate practices is recommended by numerous researches when we aim for effective work with young children. When this lens is used in planning classroom experiences, play evidently plays a central role in the picture. However, orchestrating meaningful play experiences for young children still proves to be a constant challenge to teachers.

Problem:

What play-oriented activities can be designed to develop literacy and numeracy skills among primary school learners?

Methodology:

Play-oriented lessons were planned and delivered to kindergarten and primary classes during the supervised internship of undergraduate education students enrolled in a Play course at the UP College of Education. One of the important guidelines in planning and creating the literacy and numeracy activities was to observe children in their natural and spontaneous experiences, including play episodes. Being sensitive and sharp as to how they go about their daily routines gave insights on how classroom activities may be transformed into "fun learning moments". A continuum of teacher-directed to child-initiated play in varied forms were documented: teacher-directed play to guided play to spontaneous play.

Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) & PLAY

Use of Child Development Knowledge

In Thoughtful and Appropriate Decisions
about Early Childhood Practices

To Create Play-Oriented Literacy &
Numeracy Activities that Match Children's
Abilities, Needs and Experiences

Conclusion:

Play is the main avenue through which children explore and discover their environment. When developmentally appropriate activities were designed with this in mind, their appeal to young children became a catalyst, which extended to an understanding and development of literacy and numeracy concepts.

Sample Play Activities/Resources:

- Teacher-Directed Play
 - ✓ Pass the Message Relay: Note the story character based on the description given in the message. (Comprehension)
 - ✓ Banana Peel: Creating Character Profiles (Comprehension)
- Guided Play



Throw the Cubes: Which is
More/Less? / Let's Add

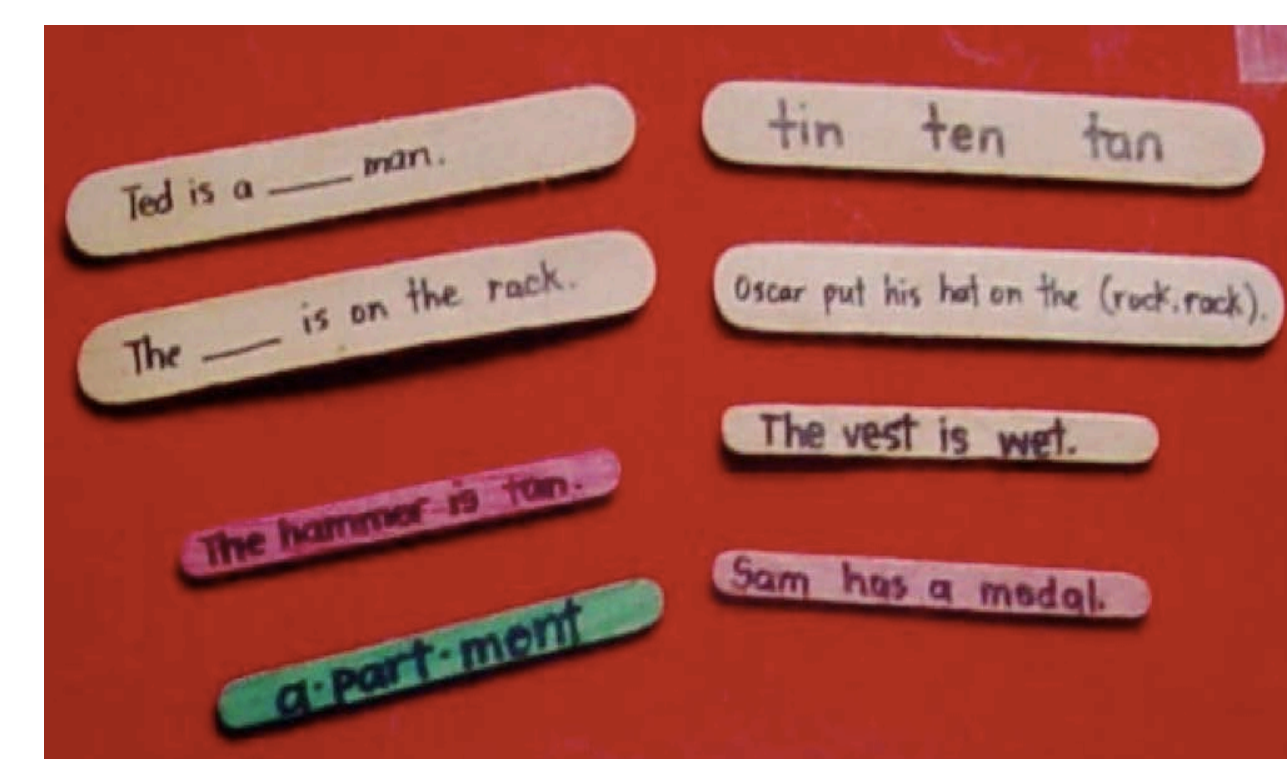
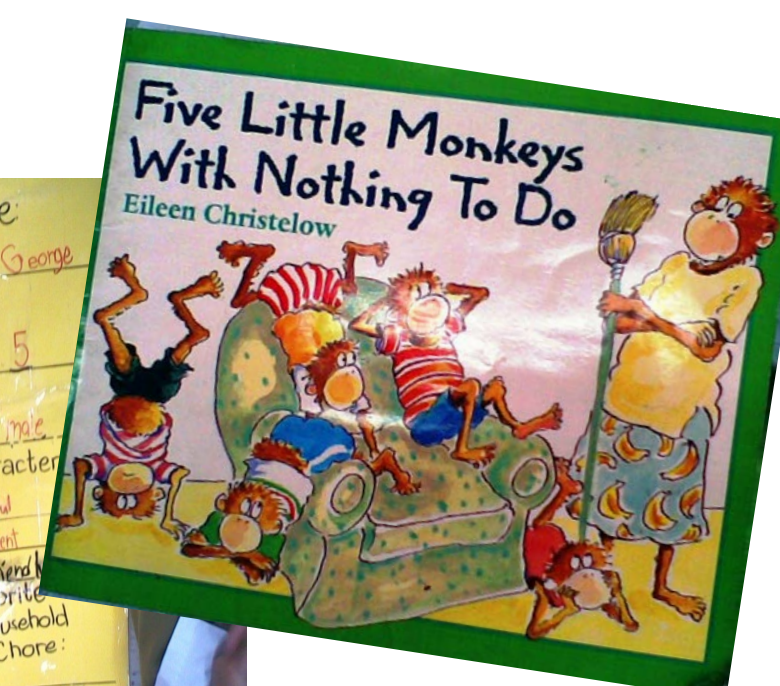


Picture/Word Puzzles and Roulettes
(Vocabulary Building)

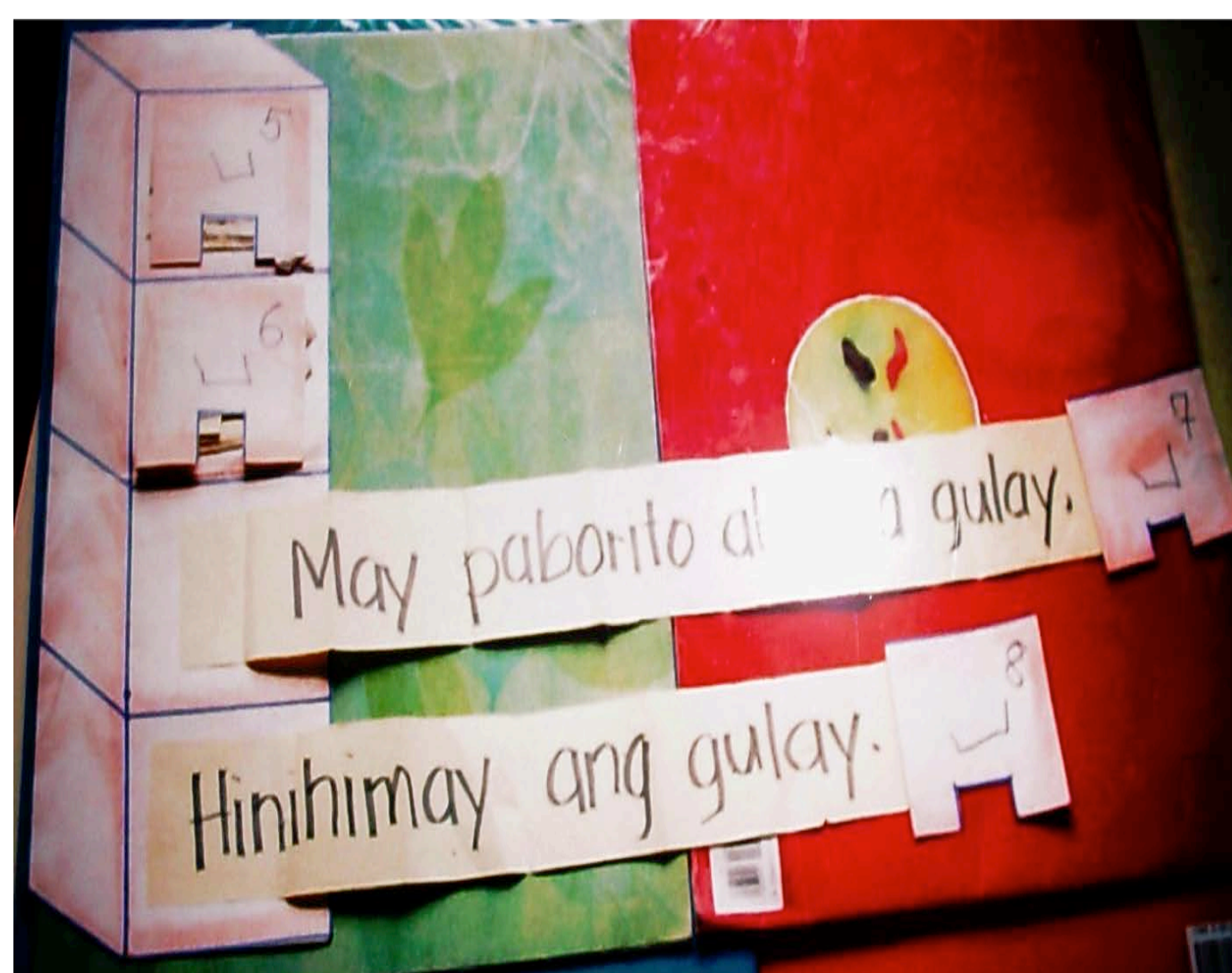


Teacher Directed Play:
Catch a Star & Read:
Match with the Picture

Guided Play: Throw
the Cube & Match
with the Phrase



Spontaneous Play:
Pick-up the Sticks & Read;
Point System was Created
by the Kids



Open the Filing Cabinet
& Read



Match and Hang the
Clothes (Antonyms)



Open the Egg: Create a Sentence