

LL39

Library

My Daily Journal



What You Do

Materials: personal journal for each child (insert newsprint pages between construction paper and staple together), or blank composition notebooks; variety of writing tools, e.g., chubby and regular pencils and markers

1. Invite the children to write or draw in their journals when they arrive at school or during some other time of day. Explain that each child has his or her own journal in which to record thoughts, ideas, and observations.

“Here is the journal that you will use. Each blank page is yours to fill with pictures and words that show what you’re feeling and thinking.”

2. Give the children time to think about what they would like to record. Ask open-ended questions.

“What did you do yesterday after you left school?”

“What adventure did you have recently that you would like to put in your journal?”

3. Allow the children to scribble, draw, or write to record their ideas. Invite them to use the journal in a thoughtful way. Ask questions that will help them think purposefully about what they put on each page.

“What was it like when your mommy brought home your new baby sister?”

“Where is your favorite place to be in your house?”

4. Encourage them to write their names on each entry.

5. Tell them that that they may always add to their journals at choice time. Invite them to share their journals with family members during arrival and departure times.

Objective 19

Demonstrates emergent writing skills

Related Objectives: 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 16, 29, 33

Additional Ideas

Journaling gives you an opportunity to find out what is happening with the children outside of the classroom. It helps you build relationships by learning about the children’s family experiences. “My Daily Journal” works well with Intentional Teaching Card LL59, “Question Basket.”

Including All Children

- Make the pages more rigid by using heavy paper or card stock.
- Provide photos or magazine pictures for the child to use.
- Allow the child to use computer software for writing or drawing. Provide computer devices that are easy to use, e.g., touchscreens, large keyboards, or trackballs.
- Give all children time to express themselves.**
- When English-language learners ask you to name an object in English, ask them to tell you its name in their home languages.**

Teaching Sequence

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|--------|---|
| YELLOW | Invite the child to illustrate the pages by drawing or scribbling. Ask the child to describe his markings. Record the dictation. Read the phrases or sentences back to the child. “You said, ‘I climbed a rock. A big, big, rock.’” |
| GREEN | Encourage the child to scribble or draw on the page. Offer to write her ideas next to the picture. Read the words back to her and invite her to write her name somewhere on the page. “I see lots of dark clouds in your picture. What would you like to tell me about it?” “You said that it rained when you came out of the grocery store. Would you like me to write that next to your picture?” |
| GREEN | Invite the child to write familiar letters as he draws or scribbles. Ask questions that help him identify the letters he has written. |
| BLUE | “I see you wrote some letters on your page. What is this round letter at the top of your paper?” |
| BLUE | Encourage the child to write words in her journal. Provide support by offering to spell words, or by creating a word bank with words she frequently uses, such as <i>Mom, Dad, love, and you</i> . |
| PURPLE | “You are writing about your daddy’s birthday dinner last night. I see that you drew a picture of sopapillas! You also wrote <i>Daddy</i> next to the picture.” |
| PURPLE | Invite the child to use uppercase and lowercase letters when writing in his journal. Ask the child to read his page to you when he is finished. “You decided to write about losing your first tooth? Will you read to me what you wrote? I want to hear about that adventure!” |

Questions to Guide Your Observations

- How did the child manipulate the writing tool?
- Was the child able to write his name?
- What letters and words was the child able to write?
- How long was the child able to attend to this experience?

Related LearningGames®

- “A Book About Me”; “Family Album”