

Lesson Plans for Word Gap Study – 2015-2016

January 2016 Agenda

Ice Breaker for Parents

What is your name? How many children do you have? What was your favorite story as a child (can either be made up, a family story, or a book)?

Why are we here?

Initial Questions:

- Why did you want to participate in this study?
- What do you want to get out of your one-on-one coaching?
- What are some things you feel you do well with regard to helping your child develop language and learning to read?
- What is something you would like to focus on?
- What are your goals for yourself and your children?

Reading

Harold and the Purple Crayon, read together as a group

Assignment for Next Month

- Create a Word Wall at home
 - Parents were asked to choose a wall, either in their child's room or in a location where the child spent a lot of time, and stick new vocabulary words to the wall so the child could see them often.
- Recreate Harold and the Purple Crayon using your child's name and favorite color (ex: Carter and the Pink Crayon)
 - Parents were prompted to rewrite Harold and the Purple Crayon with their child, and create their own adventure.

February 2016 Agenda

Check-In

How are you? How are things going at home?

Homework Check-In

Share your Harold and the Purple Crayon creation using your child's name and favorite color:

Parents were asked to help their child write a story in which the child played the main character. They were prompted to rewrite Harold and the Purple Crayon and create their own adventure. "Adventure" became a new vocabulary word to place on their word wall at home.

Create a Word Wall at home:

Parents were given long sentence strips and asked to choose different words to be words of the week, beginning with "delicious" and "delectable," to replace "tastes good". They were asked to choose a wall, either in their child's room or in a location where the child spent a lot of time, and were asked to post these vocabulary words on the wall so children could see them often. Parents were also asked to use the words as often as possible throughout the week.

Flashcard Activity

Making Your Own Flashcards:

The Word Gap Coach provided index cards and colored markers for parents and children. They were instructed to sit together and write the letters of the alphabet, in uppercase. Then, they were asked to brainstorm different words that began with each letter, and parents were encouraged to ask the child what each word meant. The goal of this activity was to promote a focus on letter sounds, especially when interacting with the younger child.

Using a Thesaurus (or Google)

Parents were encouraged to use the thesaurus to help teach their child that there are many alternative words that can be used, in addition to the usual words they practice daily. The Word Gap Coach brought in a children's thesaurus, and also encouraged parents to use Google as a resource for new words to use regularly.

Challenge:

Parents were challenged to visit their local library and acquire library cards.

Lending Library and Picture Walk

The Word Gap Coach brought in books from her children's personal library to share with the families. First, the coach and families had a discussion with the children about the importance of taking care of things that don't belong to them. Then, the coach introduced two new books: A Picture for Harold's Room, and If You Throw a Pig a Party.

The coach also introduced the concept of a "picture walk," in which parents and children only look at the pictures in the book and do not read the text on the page; parents were instructed to point out objects or events that they saw happening in the pictures. For example, if they saw a picture of a mouse eating a cookie, the parents might point out, "Look at the mouse! He's eating a cookie, and it looks like he spilled crumbs on the floor. What do you see in the picture?" After they had completed the task of looking at the pictures in the book, the

parents were told to ask, "So now that we've looked at all of the pictures, what do you think the book is going to be about?" This strategy is a good way to gauge whether or not a child is interested in reading a particular book, and parents were encouraged to use this strategy at the library or bookstore before selecting a book.

Each parent went on a "picture walk" through one of the new books with their child. Parents were asked to bring the book they had chosen back to the March meeting, so that they could swap books, giving them each the opportunity to take a new book home to read.

March 2016 Agenda

Check-In

Did you visit the library? Acquire a library card?

Children shared their experiences visiting the library, and talked about the books they checked out.

"Harold and the Purple Crayon" Movie and Book Discussion

Parents and children watched the animated movie of "Harold and the Purple Crayon" together. Parents were prompted to ask their children questions regarding what they saw, and to explore whether the movie was different from the book. They were also asked to talk about which medium they preferred (book or movie), and why they preferred it.

Pictures and Storytelling

After the movie, children and parents sat together and drew pictures. Parents were asked to maintain a conversation with their child as they were drawing, asking questions that would inspire them to expand on their picture. Finally, parents were instructed to ask their child to come up with a story for their picture, and to help their children write the story.

Book Swap

The two participants exchanged the books they had borrowed at the previous meeting in February. Before they switched books, children were asked to share their favorite part of the book with each other, with the help of their parents.

Word Wall Words

Collection, Discover, Interesting

Children were challenged to discover something new and interesting to them, and to possibly start a collection of their own.

April 2016 Agenda

Check-In

How are you doing? Are you seeing any changes or growth in your children?

Scrabble

Parents were provided with small tiles, and were asked to write all of the letters of the alphabet in both uppercase and lowercase. They were then asked to play a game of Scrabble with their child and create words together, using words from the child's word wall at home, from the library books they were reading, and from the book "If You Throw a Pig a Party". Parents were instructed to make the sound for each letter, and to exaggerate their mouth movements and sounds when talking to their younger children.

Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You See?

The Word Gap Coach and parents read the book "Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You See?" using tips from the literacy handout that was given to the families at the beginning of the study. A parent introduced the book and read out loud to the children.

Nesting Blocks

Parents created nesting blocks for "Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You See?" using small gift boxes, markers, and clear masking tape. Children counted all 11 boxes, discussed the animals and the sounds they make, and even talked about the types of foods eaten by all the animals on the blocks.

New Word Wall Words

Enjoy, Fabulous, Gigantic

Write a story at home about something you enjoy doing with your family or your friends.

Challenge: Use the word fabulous or gigantic in your story.

New Books from Lending Library

Children had the opportunity to take home either If You Give a Mouse a Cookie or The Cat in the Hat, with the understanding that the two families would swap books at the next coaching session.

May 2016 Agenda

Check-In

How is everything going? How have things changed at home? Are you continuing to visit the library?

Homework Check-In

Children and parents shared the story they wrote together about something they enjoyed doing with their family.

Book Swap

The two children swapped the books they had borrowed at the previous meeting in April (If You Give a Mouse a Cookie and The Cat in the Hat). Before they switched books, children were asked to share their favorite part of the book with each other, with the help of their parents.

Getting Ready to Read Pamphlet

The Word Gap Coach reviewed and discussed the GRTR pamphlet and answered parents' questions.