

See, Hear, Write

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This grant was written to compliment the learning of the alphabet by a kindergarten class. As letters of the alphabet are introduced to the class, the teacher will say and write common words, beginning with that letter, on a poster. Students are encouraged to contribute words that could be included on the poster. Words that represent people, places, things found in and around the school are highlighted or underlined. The list is reviewed daily and words are repeated, stressing the beginning letter/sound.

At the end of each week, the class will take an “Alphabet Walk”, around the school community and look for opportunities to photograph the highlighted words of that week. Students will take turns modeling in the photographs – especially those students whose names begin with that specific letter. The pictures can be printed and placed on a scrapbook page, with captions, including the words and letter being represented on that page. The scrapbook will be available in the class library, for students to look through during free reading times.

Following the development of the photos, the students will select one picture for each word listed on the dictionary’s page. Photos will be glued into place. Student written captions are pasted under the corresponding pictures. A wide assortment of decorations can be added to each page, as desired. Photocopies of the scrapbook can be made for each student, as scrapbook pages are done, or at the completion of the alphabet introduction.

The main equipment used is a camera. Although a digital camera has specific advantages of selecting individual shots and quicker development, any camera will work. Another advantage of a digital camera is downloading the pictures into a template on your computer’s graphics’ program. This would insure a uniform look of the pages in your dictionary. Words, captions and page labels can be typed in by the student and then printed as a whole page. “Shutterfly” is a user-friendly program that can be used this project.

Other materials needed: 12” x 18” paper (for lists), a scrapbook type book, or binder, and paper to fit the book and your printer, and markers for detailing the pages. A photo printer could be used in the classroom, your computer’s printer, or a commercial printing service. A photocopier is needed to make students copies of the pages. The pages can be done in black and white. The pages can be bound professionally, placed in a folder or binder, or just stapled within a paper cover.

Most of the State Standards covered by this project are in the Kindergarten Reading section. Concepts of Print (1.3,1.5,1.6) are covered in connection with Phonemic Awareness (1.7) and expressed through Decoding and Word Recognition (1.14). Reading Comprehension (2.3) is combined with Literary Response and Analysis (3.2) in the experience of “reading” the dictionary for information.

Writing Standards are the base for the other half of this project. Writing Strategies (1.1,1.4) are covered with the opportunities of seeing the teacher print and the students printing and typing the chosen words. Written and Oral Language Conventions of

Spelling (1.2) are demonstrated through the posters and the finished project of the dictionary.

This project can be easily adapted to other grade levels, by setting a theme for your “dictionary”. Such books can be based on science topics, social science themes or even for literature support. You might not be able to have an example for every lettered page. If a camera is not available, or if students are making individual dictionaries, pictures can be drawn, cut out of magazines, or photocopied from other sources. The pictures can be stored in any manner that is helpful for student use. Notes can hand written or typed and attached to the pictures. This project could be either used for studying facts or as a culminating project (assigned by the teacher).