

Early Childhood Boeing Grant Lesson Guide

Standards/Position Statements

This lesson's main focus is on language development and self-expression. This lesson can be used with any story, however, the story "The twenty-five mixtec cats" was used and can be paraphrased according to the age group of the children.

Children Input / Purpose

This particular book was chosen to encourage the appreciation of other cultures and welcome diversity. The children can engage in description of the colorful pages and discuss their knowledge and predictions. The author uses illustrations that were influenced by living in Oaxaca and provides artistic flavor. Parents can be read to and encouraged to share what their children will learn from listening to the story. Teacher or presenter can encourage parents to become comfortable in reading the story even though they may not know the language. This will provide a time when parents can share stories or memories of their childhood to their children to encourage interest and knowledge. Explaining to parents what the positive outcomes could be when we share a story or memory can motivate parents to seek more time for stories at home.

Theme/Main Goals

Goals for this lesson:

- Parent/ child quality time in sharing stories and memories
- Promote literacy in the home
- Encourage the love of reading in the home even though language barriers exist
- Promoting language development
- Can lead to other areas of interest, for example, cats, matching, and numbers in the story

Children will be read to and encouraged to share any knowledge from past experiences or children can share what their dreams are. Children will learn to describe what they see in the book even though they may not know how to read. Children will learn to retell a story by looking at the illustrations.

Children will develop their knowledge and language by sharing stories in the class. However, when this lesson is used for a parent workshop the child will benefit at home as well, because parents will understand the importance of literature at home. Parents can encourage the love of reading at home, which allows time to bond with the parent as well as developing their skill in literacy.

Small Group Opportunities

In the classroom, books are available to children in different areas, however, when sharing a book with a small group of children, having the story accessible to them will support their curiosity on their own. Being able to explore a book independently will also encourage self-help skills and develop their interest in other stories.

At home – reading is encouraged daily in small increments. Activities that can support the story can also be used, for example, talking about the colors in the story and providing paint to connect the information can be helpful for the children.

Individual Opportunities

Providing different books/stories about the same topic can encourage children to explore other aspects of the story. For example, the story tells about the 25 cats, providing different books on cats or numbers can extend their knowledge and future connections. (Using this same lesson with other stories can provide other opportunities.) The cat activity can be used to count, match the colors, and compare the details of the illustrations in the story.

One on One - Teacher/Child Opportunities

Children needing more individualized attention can be accommodated by providing the material to the parents and sharing the activities with family members.

Materials/Organization

The material needed consist of book, paint, paper, and cat activity.

Assessment**Growth and Development of the children in your care:**

Information can be gathered by observing and documenting with anecdotal notes, child's work, and pictures in order assess their growth and development. Collecting information from family on a regular basis can also help in gathering information about their development.

The Twenty-five Mixtec Cats
Hardcover book: \$15.95 ISBN: 1-889910-28-7
Paperback book: \$6.95 ISBN: 1-889910-29-5
Written by Matthew Gollub. Illustrated by Leovigildo Martínez
Ages 5-9. 32 pages. Full Color
Published by Tortuga Press

Set in an indigenous Mixtec village in the artist's own Oaxaca, Mexico, the story involves an evil healer, a good healer and his extraordinary feline pets. Though some people fear the cats will eat everything in sight—and maybe even set fire to fields—the animals soon prove their worth and win their way into the villagers' hearts.

The story begins:

“There once was a healer who lived alone in a village high in the mountains. You would never see any cats in his village. Not a single one lived there, for it was hot during the day, cold at night, and dusty all the time. It was not a comfortable place for cats, or for anyone else.

It was the healer's job to care for the sick. He would swish and swoosh herbs over their heads and sweep their illnesses away. The people depended on the healer and called for him quite often. But since the healer considered it his duty to help, he never asked for money. His patients brought him beans or corn, or with a little bit of change that was never enough.

Parent Workshops

There are several questions to keep in mind when presenting a workshop to parents:

- *Will this workshop support the parents' needs?
- *How will this support the student?
- *How can the teacher create a positive learning experience for the parent(s)?

Once the need is established, create a hands-on experience for the parents, set a time to present, and then just have fun.

For example, parents are asking for help in supporting their child's literacy development. The teacher will plan an active learning activity (making a book from magazines); however, before beginning the activity the teacher encourages parents to share their concerns, questions, or early memories about their learning. Once the activity is presented and completed, the teacher can ask for feedback from the parents. Activities can be taken home to further the experience with their children. These types of meetings or workshops will help support a positive relationship with the families, which are important for the child's success and the program's future.

This activity can be used for a parent workshop- recreate or adding material to support the main idea will be essential.

