Strategies for Using Children's Experiences for Oral Language Development and Literacy

After watching the VHS/DVD, A World Full of Language, reflect specifically on what teachers and children did to develop oral language and literacy. Generate other ideas for activities that you could use in your own classrooms.

Pre-reading Activity

Oral Language Development

Using print and encouraging beginning writing experiences



Handout 8A

Early Literacy Explorations

WHAT CHILDREN MIGHT DO	HOW IT RELATES TO READING AND WRITING
Make a pattern with objects such as buttons, beads, and small colored cubes.	
Listen to a story, then talk with their families, teachers, or tutors and each other about the plot, characters, what might happen next, and what they liked about the book.	
Play a matching game such as concentration or picture bingo.	
Move to music while following directions such as, "Put your hands up, down, in front, in back, to the left, to the right. Now wiggle all over."	
Recite rhyming poems introduced by a parent, teacher or tutor and make up new rhymes on their own.	
Make signs for the "grocery store."	
Retell a favorite story to another child or a stuffed animal.	
Use invented spelling to write a grocery list at the same time as a parent is writing his or her own list.	
Sign their names (with a scribble, a drawing, some of the s, or "correctly") on an attendance chart, painting or .	
* Adapted from Koralek, D. and Collins, R. 1997, p. 13, with some elaboration of concepts based on Torgesen, J.K. and Matheson, P. 2001.	

Handout 8B

Identifying the Early Literacy Skills Found in Songs, Books, and Rhymes Used by Families

Use the chart below to list songs, books, or rhymes that are familiar to the children in your class on the left hand side. On the right hand side of the chart, list the early literacy skills inherent in the item you listed on the left side.

Language/Literacy Activities	Concepts Learned or Practiced
Song "Pim Pon"	Rhyming in Spanish Social graces/ hygiene Formulaic phrases, and repetition
Children's book "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?	Colors Animals Sight Formulaic phrases, repetition

Handout 8C

