



School Age Literacy Activities

Shopping with Words (1st - 6th grade)

Provide supermarket or coupon ads for your students. Then have students create their own shopping list based on the things that they find in the ads. This activity will help students read words and copy them onto their papers and create their own shopping list.

Cookbooks (Kindergarten - 6th grade)

Provide different types of cook books for students to look at. Have students read through some of their favorite recipes and have them create their own recipe with different ingredients than what the original recipe used. When completed have the students share their new recipes with the class.

Cards (Kindergarten - 6th grade)

Have students write cards to different people. These can be Thank You, Get Well, Happy Birthday, Miss You, and Love You cards. They can then share the cards with the class. The cards can be given to the people they wrote them to.

Scrabble (3rd - 6th grade)

Use the actual board game or create your own. If you create your own Scrabble game then write different letters using poster board or index cards. Have the students choose 8 different letters to start with so that they can create different words. You can apply your own scores for double words if you choose. The actual board game is used the same way.

Magazine Letters (Kindergarten - 3rd grade)

You will need old magazine, paper, glue, and scissors. Then you have your students cut and paste letters from magazines. This activity works on letter recognition while also developing fine motor skills. It's also very adaptable to kids of different developmental levels. If you are doing this with a younger child or one who is not very familiar with the letters yet, I strongly recommend having them search for just one or two letters at a time.

Read the recipe together (Kindergarten - 6th grade)

Recipes provide a wonderful introduction to instructional texts. Older children can read the ingredient list, gather the necessary ingredients, and read the recipe instructions aloud, step-by-step, as you go. Keep it simple for little ones. For example, "A recipe tells us what we need to make our cupcakes, and how to make them. It says we need flour, here's the flour..." Let the students choose what recipes they want to read and learn about more.

Grow vocabulary with Cookbooks (Kindergarten - 6th grade)

There are so many interesting words to learn when cooking! Names of ingredients — cinnamon or saffron — as well as processes, such as whisking and dicing, measurements and temperatures. Hearing and seeing these words used within a real-life application, equips your child to better understand and remember the words and their meanings. Students can write down all the interesting words they learn and practice saying them.

Action for Children



Read a story (Kindergarten - 6th grade)

While the jelly sets or your cake bakes, why not sit together and enjoy a story related to food or the dish you are cooking? After the students are done looking at and reading all the recipes, find different books that have to do with the recipes. Books from different cultures and how the foods are cooked and eaten would be interesting to share with your students.

Word Search Bingo (Kindergarten - 6th grade)

Reading to children helps them develop their language and listening skills and prepares them to understand written words. However, some children lose focus when sitting still and listening, so it's important to find ways to keep them engaged. One way to do this is to create a bingo game. Hand out sheets of paper to the students with a list of words from the chapter of the book you're reading to them. As you read the book, the students will circle the words from the sheet they hear. At the end of the chapter, have the class discuss what words they found.

Find Words within Words (Kindergarten - 6th grade)

Show young learners how small words can sometimes "hide" in bigger words (the word can hide in candy, the word pot hiding in potato). Make a game of it—encourage students to find other examples in books, newspapers, signs, advertisements, and other print media.

Hand Puppets (All Ages)

Search around the house for old or mismatched socks and gloves. Use scissors to create puppets from the socks and gloves. Choose a favorite family book and tell the story using the puppets or create your own improv story and act it out with the puppets.