

Eastern Kansas Early Literacy Symposium

Literacy Activities in a Shoebox and on a Shoestring

Shoebox contents

Beanbag pancake flip

Materials:

Beanbags, permanent marker or paint marker, plastic spatula

Directions:

Write alphabet letters on beanbags with permanent marker. Use both sides so entire alphabet fits on 13 beanbags. Place beanbags and plastic spatula in the shoebox.

Estimated costs:

Constructive Playthings "Alphabet Bean Bags" (pre-printed) \$40

Lakeshore Learning "Activity Beanbags" (blank) \$20

Lakeshore Learning "Letters Beanbag Set" (pre-printed) \$43

Spatula \$1

Feltboard

Materials:

Felt, rubber cement or felt glue

Directions:

Trim one large piece of felt to the size of the shoebox lid and adhere to the lid with rubber cement or felt glue. Cut remaining felt into basic shapes and store inside the box.

Estimated costs:

Felt \$2

Glue \$4

Fishing

Materials:

Magnetic letters & fishing pole set

Directions:

Place everything in shoebox.

Estimated costs:

Constructive Playthings "A-B-C Magnetic Fishing" \$30 (enough for 2 shoeboxes)

Lakeshore Learning "Catch a Letter Magnetic Learning Game" \$30

Garden vegetables

Materials:

Plastic vegetables, child-sized garden tools (real or toy)

Directions:

Place everything in shoebox.

Estimated costs:

Constructive Playthings "Fruit & Veggie Combo" \$35 (15 pieces)

Lakeshore Learning "Vegetable Basket" \$30 (15 pieces)

Melissa & Doug "Giddy Buggy" cultivator and trowel \$4 each

Rhythm and music

Materials:

Assortment of small instruments, some method to choose song titles.

Directions:

Put instruments and song titles in shoebox.

Estimated costs:

Instruments from Music In Motion website:

- Cluster bells \$4
- Claves \$4
- Egg shaker \$2
- Rhythm sticks \$4
- Sand blocks \$5
- Tick tock block \$6
- Finger cymbals \$8

Shape sorting

Materials:

Craft foam, 6-cup muffin tin

Directions:

Cut craft foam into basic shapes ensuring there are enough of each shape and/or color to allow for sorting in various ways. Place shapes in shoebox with muffin tin.

Estimated costs:

Craft foam \$2

Muffin tin \$1

Thank you notes

Materials:

Colored pencils, thank you note template

Directions:

Place everything in shoebox.

Estimated costs:

Colored pencils \$2

Copies of template \$2