Suggested Presentation Timeline: Emergent Literacy

This lesson outline is designed to be a teaching tool for early learning professionals who teach this information in a wide variety of settings. Therefore, please use the outline below as a guide and modify it as necessary to meet the needs of your audience and schedule.

Minutes 0 - 10   Welcome and Introductions
- Begin your presentation or workshop by creating a comfortable environment.
- Introduce yourself to your group / audience and orient them to the environment (restrooms, important announcements).

Minutes 10 - 40   Presentation of Topic
Provide your group with an <u>overview</u> of the topic you will be presenting. This brings all the participants together quickly as well as to engage the group in the learning. Here are some options for how to do this:

1. Tell a story that engages the audience.

    A kindergartner runs in the door from school and excitedly shows a picture to his mother. "Look what I made today Mommy! It's a picture of a snowman." The mother looks, and next to the drawing of the snow man are the words, "I blt a snoman." This child is proud of his ability to use words and pictures to convey meaning, key steps to becoming literate.

2. Provide a definition of the topic / terms that are being discussed.

    Definition of Literacy: Literacy is the capacity to comprehend, construct, and convey meaning through written and symbolic language.

3. Some educators find it helpful to begin with a general question. For example:

    - What do you think of when you hear the word literate?

    - What factors help children learn to read and write?

4. Provide an overview that introduces your audience to the research-based information about the topic.

    Literacy development begins in the very early stages of development. Research shows that the relationship between the young children and their parents and caregivers, as well as the quality of the children's literacy environment, play a significant role in determining their preparedness for and early success in school. (McLane, J.B., and McNamee, G.D. 1990)

Review the <u>goals</u> of what you intend to teach, describe what <u>tools/resources</u> they can expect to gain by attending the event, and present the Parenting Counts Program <u>Curriculum.</u>

Minutes 40 - 50   Applied Learning Activity
- Most audiences are ready for a change in activity after 20-30 minutes of lecture. Consider the composition of your group and decide what type of activity best meets their needs.
- Some educators choose to have participants work in pairs to maximize comfort with the topic, others opt for a group discussion to allow a variety of opinions to be heard and validated.
- Parenting Counts offers multiple video options that can be used during this time to encourage discussion or to continue the learning experience.

Minutes 50 - 60   Closure and Evaluation
- Closure: Be sure to recap the key messages of the presentation as well as provide tools that incorporate the learning into parenting practices.
- Evaluation: Please distribute an evaluation form as part of your presentation. It is important to give participants an opportunity to comment on the presentation as well as to provide you with an assessment of their learning.