

Title of Session: K-3+ Resources - Balanced Literacy

Moderator: Susan Roseman

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SusanR: What do you hope to get out of this session this evening?

MelissaCH: I hope to learn some strategies on working with my elementary students- and also become familiar with Tapped-In- this is my first meeting!

SusanR: This will be an informal discussion. so kick off your shoes and relax.

AmandaPo: I hope to get some great resources to use in the classroom

SusanR: ...K to 3+ GREAT RESOURCES... the topic is Balanced Literacy

AmandaPo: one of my favorite areas-literacy

KathrynD: one of mine, too

SusanR: while we are waiting here is a preview...<http://snipurl.com/BalLit>

AmandaPo: I like the poem too Susan

DianaA joined the room.

SusanR: the poem ..<http://208.183.128.8/read/stuckword.htm>

AmandaPo: so many times we want to jump in and help

SusanR: I gather you have never heard of Dick and Jane

http://www.usatoday.com/life/books/news/2004-02-25-dick-and-jane-main_x.htm

AmandaPo: I have

SusanR: BJ...were you brought up on Dick and Jane

DianaA: Yes.

BJ nods

AmandaPo: actually we were talking about the books today

MelissaCH: I'm a few steps behind, but that poem is so cute!

MeshiaH: The poem is cute

SusanR: I guess we should start...

AmandaPo: sounds good to me

MeshiaH: me, too.

KathrynD: okay

MelissaL: sounds great

SusanR: Should we start with intro's BJ

BJ: yes, please, Sue

SusanR: I think most of you know each other

AmandaPo: okay.....I'm Amanda from Houston, I am in the process of getting my teaching certificate at the University of Houston

MeshiaH: My name is Meshia and I am a senior at the University of Houston

MelissaCH: My name is Melissa and I'm a special ed teacher in Maryland

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

LeylaB: Hello everyone.. I'm new to the Group. My name is Leyla and I work for an Educational Media Company in Canada

DianaA: I'm also a preservice teacher from Houston.

KathrynD: My name is Kathryn. I, too, am a senior at the University of Houston completing my teacher certification

MelissaL: hi my name is Melissa and I am from the University of Houston

CindyL: Hi I am a third grade teacher from Milwaukee

SusanR: Welcome all!

MeshiaH: Thank you Susan

AmandaPo smiles

SusanR: ...to GREAT RESOURCES K to 3+..tonight's topic is Balanced Literacy

ElisabetS: I am a teacher in Spokane, WA

SusanR: Would anyone like to define Balanced Literacy?

ElisabetS: I would love to join your conversation

SusanR: welcome Elizabeth

ElisabetS: thank you

SusanR: What does balanced literacy mean to you?

SusanR: What is your definition of balanced literacy?

MelissaCH: Balanced Literacy is a method of reading instruction that includes 4 aspects: guided reading, word work, self selected reading and writing.

BrianaM: It means using a variety of learning instruction for reading.

SusanR: What problems are you encountering as you are implementing this practice in your classroom? What issues and concerns do you have about its implementation?

AmandaPo: using a variety of methods incorporating literacy

KathrynD: There are sometimes time constrictions or limitations

SusanR: a framework for maximizing reading and writing achievement...

BrianaM: I am currently a preservice teacher, but I have seen that the teachers do not have enough time.

MelissaCH: I find it difficult to juggle the different aspects of meeting with groups and finding meaningful independent activities for students while I'm meeting with other kids

CindyL: How to balance all the different things and get them implemented in the year

SusanR: right ..time to implement all blocks is a key factor

DianaA: Time does always seem to be limited.

AmandaPo: I think that there should be more variety in the literacy chosen in early childhood programs--more genres

SusanR: good points

MeshiaH: Balanced Literacy includes shared reading, interactive reading, guided reading, independent reading, and so on

SusanR: the web resources presented here tonight should boost comprehension... enhance the writing process, teach phonics and spelling and activate multi-level learning.

BrianaM: I think there is a lot out there, regarding genres, but again it's hard to cram it all in.

SandraLo: Will you be giving those websources?

SusanR: Okay..let's start with the first site..let us know what you find useful here

KathrynD: sounds good

MelissaCH: Also do you have any ideas as to how to incorporate technology into balanced literacy?

AmandaPo: there is a lot out there but not enough variety is presented in the classroom--teachers too often don't feel comfortable or choose only genres that they enjoy

SusanR: Yes, Melissa..we look for tech Integration into the Balanced Literacy program

SusanR: <http://www.four-blocks.com/>

SusanR: This site gives a good overview...

SusanR: o O (hate that popup)

SandraLo: Does this web page consider students from all over the world?

AmandaPo: are we just looking around the site or do you want us to look at something specific?

YazidR: Good question

SusanR: just get an overview...and pinpoint anything that you could relate to your teaching

AmandaPo: guided reading is a big deal in the school that i am at

MeshiaH joined the room.

YazidR: We have a new reading program in our school and there is no technology integration in it. Any advice

BrianaM: You could integrate technology and reading into other subjects.

SusanR: We will come to tech integration

YazidR: Ok

SusanR: Tips, strategies, management ideas and handouts which can be used to implementing the 4-Blocks Literacy Model can be found here...

AmandaPo: i like the print rich classroom labels

MeshiaH: ok, thanks Susan

ElisabetS: It appears that most of the materials need to be purchased?

KathrynD: ooh! I like some of the classroom items for purchase listed at the bottom of the guided reading page

DamarisP: Perhaps you could use some video of the stories you are reading in your class, Yazid, to integrate technology.

MelissaCH: Another thing I like are the guided reading balls- you can make those yourself with a beach ball and the kids love this activity

DianaA: Integrating technology across the curriculum can be a great tool.

SandraLo: Good tip Melissa

YazidR: The problem is that we have only books .No audio-visual materials

MelissaL: I also like the items to purchase. Some of them would be very useful in the classroom

DamarisP: Could the guided reading balls be explained again, please? I got disconnected and didn't get a chance to read that...

BJ: I like the idea of teacher made supplies...

BrianaM: what do you do with the balls? I have never seen that.

DebbieJL: Yes, I'm interested in the guided reading balls

MelissaL: me to

AmandaPo: where are the handouts located?

BJ: so many teachers don't have funding to purchase materials

YazidR: Our program is called Direct Instruction

MelissaCH: They are basically beach balls, with a question written on each color- such as What is the problem? who are the characters? When a student catches the ball, whatever color their thumb is on, they answer that question...

MelissaL: that is a neat idea..

DamarisP: Oh! That is so cool!

ElisabetS: I like that

SusanR: This site has a wealth of resources

<http://www.teachers.net/4blocks/column.html>

DianaA: That sounds like a great Idea.

SharonBM: I saw some balls like that in someone's classroom last week.

KathrynD: One of the teachers I observed had one of those and she said her guided reading groups love to use it

SandraLo: That sounds like it s a lot of fun and significant learning

DebbieJL: That sounds like a very motivating activity.

MelissaCH: It's cheaper to buy beach balls at target and use a sharpie...

SharonBM: Teachers can always figure a way to save money

MeshiaH: I like the beach ball idea

YazidR: That's true

SusanR: great ideas

BrianaM: neat idea

MelissaL: there are some interesting lessons on the teachers.net website

AmandaPo: I love the chatboard on teachers.net--I post there all the time

SharonBM: I presented a PowerPoint presentation today on those story elements. It would be neat to incorporate the balls and create a slide show about a story.

YazidR: This is what you call a living book.

SusanR: I am a frequent visitor to teachers.net ..for daily resources and neat ideas,
Amanda

YazidR: I love to do that with powerpoint

DebbieJL: PowerPoint is lots of fun and the students love it.

MeshiaH: I like PowerPoint and it is a great way to incorporate technology into your lessons

DamarisP: I have done several power point presentations for reading instruction and games. I like doing it, but it is a lot of work! But the kids like it a lot.

YazidR: Controlling the audience and create a passion in them

SharonBM: Teachers are amazed when I show them how simple it really is

SandraLo: Students can participate in the Power Point presentation

DianaA: Students are always excited to use PowerPoint.

DamarisP: It is simple to do, but a really good one is very time consuming- and yes, students can really participate with these.

SusanR: Have your students create Powerpoint presentations..on a particular topic

SharonBM: The key point is to call students up to work on the PPT and show how easy it is

DebbieJL: Sharon, that's a great idea!

DamarisP: I have seen some incredible presentations that children have done on PPT, and they are really good! Kids love working with tech.

DebbieJL: They really are creative.

SusanR: Why don't we take a look at the read*write*think site..lots of topical resources for the 4 Blocks model

AmandaPo: kids are better with technology than most adults...if you ever need help on a computer call a 12 year old

SharonBM: PPT is a personal fav. I have to force myself to include other programs in my lessons when I go to schools -- Paint is great because it's on all computers

SusanR: you can use PPT for phonics. its use is only limited by one's imagination

SusanR: <http://www.readwritethink.org/>

SusanR: Check out the New Student materials and the letter writing generator

DamarisP: would you like us to click on this site now, Susan?

YazidR: Kids are very curious and when it comes to technology they have no fear.

SusanR: please do, Damaris

DebbieJL: I just saw the letter writing generator also--it looks to have a lot of potential.

DianaA: This site has some great lesson plan ideas.

SharonBM: Are we supposed to go to that site and look at it now?

DamarisP: Ok-

MelissaL: I like that there are so many lesson plans available on this site

SusanR: If you are looking for a certain component...use the search tab

MelissaL: I like the comic creator- students would love using this

SusanR: Here is the literacy section <http://www.readwritethink.org/literacy/index.html>

AmandaPo: where is the comic creator

BrianaM: the lesson plans have descriptions too, which is nice so you know what you want to look at

AmandaPo: oops-found it

SusanR: the calendar is a useful function for your Literacy program.

DebbieJL: The lesson plans are wonderful--I can't wait to share them with some of my friends.

DianaA: This site is a great literacy resource.

KathrynD: I agree with Diana

SharonBM: Lots of great ideas. I also like the way everything is explained

SusanR: I highly recommend this site!

DianaA: It has great ideas that can be easily implemented into the classroom.

MelissaL: it is also very easy to navigate- unlike some sites I have come across

AmandaPo: pretty neat

KathrynD: it's very user-friendly!

DebbieJL: I like the Hints About Print--so many students believe everything on the internet is the gospel. We must teach them to evaluate the resources.

BrianaM: Gosh, what did teachers do before the internet!

DamarisP: Wow! This site has a million ideas!...for real, Brianna.

YazidR: It is pretty good. I think I will try to search it later for some ideas

MelissaCH: I like also like all the links to other useful info...

SusanR: Note The Quick Site Guide..pull down menu..and the "Search Tab"

SharonBM: I think it will be very useful for me to share with teachers

SusanR: very useful when you want to zero in on a topic quickly

DianaA: There are great links.

YazidR: Of course. Students need to understand that not everything on the net is true.

SusanR: absolutely, Yazid

DamarisP: It even has the 5 most e-mailed lessons and the standards that the lesson follows.

SandraLo: Yazid, how do you think we can make children understand that not everything on the net is true

SusanR: One could easily spend an evening sniffing out Great Resources here, Damaris

AmandaPo: the calendar is neat also--lots of interesting dates

DamarisP: Are these resource discussions held often? These are so useful.

SusanR: twice monthly, Damaris

SandraLo: Children just love believing everything they read

SharonBM: That would be an interesting activity -- having students compare the veracity of info found on the internet

YazidR: By just comparing information in different resources

MeshiaH: I like that idea

AmandaPo: when doing a report on composers I found two different sets of information that did not match on one composer

DamarisP: When is the next one, Susan?

SharonBM: I read an article about not having enough computers for all students -- some could look up info in books while others on internet and compare

DianaA: That's a great idea Sharon.

SusanR: I wanted to recommend Marcopolo..

ElisabetS: Do you have any other great resources for us?

SharonBM: I got it from an article in L & L magazine

SandraLo: yea I guess so but I'm not sure they'll stop believing in all the information they find

MelissaCH: Does anyone know of any websites or other resources that have high-interest, low readability levels for students?

SusanR: one moment...

YazidR: Some sites are reliable others are not and we need to check information from different sources before presenting them to students.

SandraLo: yes of course, I agree

DamarisP: What's MarcoPolo Susan?

SusanR: Site location: <http://www.marcopolo-education.org/>

DianaA: I also agree.

DamarisP: Ok--- I see. Let's explore

SandraLo: what's this website for

SharonBM: InfoBits on the Gale Resource group has some things for lower grades

ElisabetS: that is a great question so frequently the websites are over the kids reading comprehension level

SusanR: MarcoPolo has the highest quality lesson plans, student activities, reviewed Web sites are represented here.

SusanR: Use the keyword search and enter "Balanced Literacy" or "Literature Circles"

YazidR: You can also check this site. www.educationworld.com This is one of the best educational site I have ever seen. It deals with all matters.

DamarisP: Yes, Yazid. That is also a good site for current events and trends in education.

SusanR: excellent site, Yazid

BrianaM: the calendar is really interesting. It would work great for a daily exercise about "today" in history.

SandraLo: I'll check it out for sure

MeshiaH joined the room.

DamarisP: Susan, how do you use the marco polo site?

CindyL: I know there is a web site to find high interest low reading level but I don't have the info here it is at work

YazidR: Another site called www.teachnology.com Just check it out

MelissaL: there are some interesting lessons on this site

ElisabetS: so frequently when I want to supplement my students reading with some extra information, when I go online the reading level is to difficult

SusanR: I usually use the search component...

ElisabetS: I find myself rewriting the material and creating my own cyberquides

DianaA: There are also great resources on this site.

SharonBM: Enchanted learning is on a lower grade level -- but I think it's a pay site now

ElisabetS: I just used it the other day

ElisabetS: don't remember having to pay

SusanR: on the MarcoPolo site I go directly to the SEARCH tab to zero in on what I need, Damaris

SandraLo: I agree Elizabeth sometimes it is really time consuming cause you have to find the exact page for the reading level of your students

AmandaPo: it's pay for some aspects

AmandaPo: you can still use some of the resources on enchanted

DamarisP: Discovery School has a lot of really great lesson ideas as well as resources for teachers and games for kids that are very good.

SandraLo: Discovery School is great

DianaA: I love that site. It has so many great resources.

SharonBM: If you haven't visited www.starfall.com yet, you will love it if you are a k - 3 teacher

YazidR: It was fun chatting with you all. Keep up the good work. Have a good evening!

DamarisP: Bye Yazid.

SusanR: Let's take a look at the writing component..

MelissaCH: I just learned about starfall earlier this week! It has some good things on it!

ElisabetS: like that one

SusanR: writer's workshop..

http://www.educationcentral.org/alimacani/Great%20Links/writers_workshop.htm

AmandaPo: cute page!

DebbieJL: Edupuppy.com is also a good resource for PreK-3 teachers

SusanR: It can be used a Home/School connection

DianaA: That is a good site. Thanks!

ElisabetS: that is great

KathrynD: I really like this site

BJ: Don't forget all the resources available in the K to 3 Resource Room

MelissaL: this is a neat site

SharonBM: I loved the math problem generator in the resource room

SusanR: and I love this one..abc brainstorm ...

<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/go/readquest/strat/abc.html>

MelissaL: it has great resources that both parents and teachers can use

KathrynD: the spinner spider is adorable!

SandraLo: Thanks guys. The sites were great I'll use them soon.

SandraLo: bye

SusanR: Is that mathfactcafé.com, Sharon

DamarisP: Scholastic also has a lot of literacy activities that kids can do that relate to popular stories they frequently read, like Junie B. Jones, for example.

DianaA: There are great strategies on that site Susan.

SharonBM: It was on the list of K to 3 Resources

SusanR: Most of the resources discussed this evening can be found on this online track..<http://snipurl.com/BalLit>

MelissaCH: These are all great! I just need to find time to explore them all!!!

MeshiaH: Thank you Susan you have provided useful and resourceful information

KathrynD: thank you, Susan

AmandaPo: there are so many

BrianaM: Thanks so much! I've learned about some really helpful sites!

SharonBM: Good. I want to take more time with them

DianaA: Thanks.

AmandaPo: i have saved them as favorites so i can go back and look

AmandaPo: yes-thank you

SusanR: Thank you, Diana! I use a lot of these web resources as a substitute teacher

DebbieJL: Thanks Susan! This was my first Tapped In session and I really enjoyed it.

MelissaL: all of these websites are so great

DamarisP: Thanks, Susan! That makes it a lot easier to access these. I can't wait to look through all these.

MelissaL: thanks Susan!

MeshiaH: I will save all these websites to my favorites too

DamarisP: Thank You Susan! ...When is the next resources discussion going to be?

KathrynD: great, thanks again! these sights will be very useful!

SusanR: Can I pick your brains for upcoming sessions..

KathrynD: sure

MelissaL: sure

DamarisP: of course

SusanR: I thought about doing a session on each of the 4 Blocks..what do you think???

DamarisP: What 4 blocks?

KathrynD: I think that is a great idea

SusanR: any other suggestions..Tech Integration and 4 Blocks

MelissaL: that would be a great way to share more in depth information for the four blocks

SharonBM: Devote an hour to each?

DamarisP: Oh yeah! ...the technology 4 blocks?

KathrynD: definitely tech. & the 4 block

MelissaCH: Yes Yes!

DamarisP: That's a good idea- we need to learn more about integrating tech. into our lessons effectively

SusanR: a session on the Self selected Reading Block..the Writing Block AND THE WORKING WITH WORDS BLOCK ..

MelissaL: I know that for the many of us who are preservice teachers that would be very useful

SharonBM: I agree, Damaris

ElisabetS: thanks for all your input

SharonBM: I can't wait until the next time, Susan

SusanR: Thanks Sharon, I enjoyed your sharing and participation

MelissaCH: Susan- thanks so much! I can't wait to share this info with my colleagues!

SusanR: any other requests or comments..feel free to use the K to 3+ Resource Room

DamarisP: Thanks Susan- how can we know when the next discussion with you will be?

KathrynD: thanks! I will definitely be visiting that room!

SusanR: Check the April calendar...

DamarisP: Ok- thanks! Have a nice evening.

CindyL: Are you going to do the four blocks separately, one each night?

SusanR: yes, Cindy. separately over two months

SusanR: 2 blocks in April and 2 blocks in May

CindyL: I think that would be a great idea, it would really break it down

SusanR: I agree Cindy. I will sift thro' the sites..and feel free to jump in share sites

CindyL: This was a great discussion with many good resources to explore...how do you sort it all out

SusanR: hours of sifting and searching..keeping my ears and eyes open in the schools I visit, Cindy

SusanR: any last minute comments or concerns

CindyL: No all good

CindyL: Best Practices

SusanR: Thanks Cindy

SusanR leaves for the K to 3 Resource Room