

SMITHSONIAN EARLY ENRICHMENT CENTER

EMERGENT LITERACY WORKSHOP (2-3 HOURS)

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- What artwork speaks to you and why?
- Through this activity, we will illustrate how art and objects can spark open ended conversations, build visual literacy, introduce vocabulary and inspire people to share and create stories.

II. THE EMERGENT READER

- Create a shared definition of reading.
- Discuss the skills that an emergent reader is developing:
 - Vocabulary
 - Letter & Print Awareness
 - Phonological Awareness
 - Storytelling/Narrative Skills
 - Print Motivation
- Connect these skills to the definition of reading.
- Engage in brief discussion about how to teach emergent readers – what is our goal as educators and what is appropriate for children two and under?

III. EMERGENT READER TOOLKIT

- Identify specific strategies for developing the skills outlined above.
- With these strategies in mind, participants will create a mini-lesson using the book, *Goodnight Moon*. They will be asked to think about how they would add visuals, objects and activities to engage and enhance the emergent reader's understanding.

IV. OBJECTS, BOOKS AND THE EMERGENT READER

- Participate in two museum-based lessons that connect with a book and utilize the approaches previously discussed as well as other teaching strategies that enhance community-based learning with young children.
- Using a guiding document, educators will be asked to plan their own lesson using an object from the museum. Participants will share and discuss different approaches.

V. SPACE FOR EMERGENT READERS

- Museums and libraries are places of contemplation and learning. Share examples of ways to create environments that encourage young readers and ask participants to apply them to their own classroom or spaces.

VI. PANEL DISCUSSION

- Emergent literacy and standards
- Inclusivity and anti-bias
- Choosing and making books

VII. Conclusion

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