Communicating: Oral language and early literacy development



Learning possibilities

Text: Graham, B 1997, *Queenie, one of the family*, Candlewick Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Engage

Step 1. If you have this book at home, encourage your child/children to predict what the story is about from the cover. Before reading, invite children to look at the cover and make predictions, for example: 'What do you think this book is about?' Before reading, talk about how this book is a bit like *Rosie's walk* in some ways. Ask the children to think about that as you read. If you do not have the story use the suggested video link in the Resources box and watch the story together.

Resources

Poem

'Baby chick' by Aileen Fisher

http://literacy.cowetaschools.org/gsp/gs/mediaobject s/First%20Grade/Resources/Poetry/Chick_and_Egg .pdf

Video

Read2uChannel – Queenie the Bantam by Bob Graham (YouTube, Read2uChannel)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPQveruO-So

- Step 2. Before reading the book or watching the video, talk about how this book is a bit like *Rosie's walk* in some ways. Ask your child/children to think about that as you read.
- Step 3. Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.
 - 1. Who saved Queenie when she was in the lake?
 - 2. Where was Queenie's home?
 - 3. What did Queenie do every day after she went back to the farm?
 - 4. How do you think Bruno the dog felt about having a bantam in his basket?

Respond

Re-read the story and ask your child/children to join in and emphasise the positional language in the story.

Extend

- Create a small world play space for retelling the story. Follow the path Queenie took on her adventures each
 time she returned to the family: along a path, past the churchyard, around the lake, through the woods, over
 the road, across the park, down the street and into Bruno's basket. Encourage your child/children to think of
 materials they could use to represent all the areas on Queenie's trip.
- The story could also be retold through play in the sandpit, block play or as dramatic play with simple props.

