

# ☆☆☆☆☆☆ Introduction ☆☆☆☆☆☆

“Who wants to hear a story?” Anyone who works with young children has experienced the magic of a child’s favorite book. *Speech & Language Activities for Young Learners* was developed to help speech-language pathologists capture this magic.

*Speech & Language Activities for Young Learners* features ten popular children’s books and surrounds them with speech and language activities. The lessons are equally effective with individuals or with groups. They are filled with fun, interactive activities based on the featured children’s books. The activities address specific speech and language targets (receptive and expressive vocabulary, concepts, questions, articulation, phonology, phonological awareness, letter identification, and language). The lessons in *Speech & Language Activities for Young Learners* are not intended for drill, but are to help guide you in using children’s books to meet communication needs.

These ten books are featured in *Speech & Language Activities for Young Learners*:

- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*
- *Goodnight Moon*
- *Where’s Spot?*
- *Sheep in a Jeep*
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*
- *The Rainbow Fish*
- *Trashy Town*
- *Is Your Mama a Llama?*
- *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*
- *Mama, Do You Love Me?*

## ☆ Major Components of Each Unit

### **Vocabulary**

Basic vocabulary from the featured children’s book is introduced with three pages of vocabulary pictures. The first page contains simple action pictures that incorporate eight nouns and four verbs. The pictures on the next two pages teach eight adjectives presented in contrasting pairs.

In order to expand vocabulary and concept development, some vocabulary is pictured in contexts different from the books (the *Sheep in a Jeep* vocabulary picture for *shout* is a child shouting instead of a sheep shouting as in the book).

Directions are provided for teaching the vocabulary both receptively and expressively. There are also additional activities for targeting other nouns, verbs, and adjectives associated with the book, as well as suggestions for expanding utterances into phrases and sentences.

### **Hands-On Activity**

Each unit contains a hands-on, interactive activity that is fun and motivating for young children. Simple patterns and easy-to-follow directions are included along with ideas for language enrichment.

You can use these suggestions to help the child develop and use nouns, verbs, adjectives, and prepositions while completing the fun activity.

### **Concepts**

Children's books are a great way to work on basic concepts that are so essential to a child's vocabulary. Concepts from the featured children's book are listed with suggested ways to elicit them while reviewing the children's book with the child.

### **Phonological Awareness Activity**

Working with children's books is a perfect way to begin developing the important early literacy skills of phonological awareness. Each unit contains a book-related phonological awareness activity that targets rhyming, syllable identification, syllable blending, or listening for the beginning sounds in words.

### **Articulation and Phonological Pattern Activities**

*Speech & Language Activities for Young Learners* comes with 216 colorful picture cards associated with the featured children's books. These cards are organized by articulation and/or phonological pattern targets and can be used to elicit a response at the word, phrase, or sentence level. The targets can be practiced by themselves and then used to help remind the child of his special sounds when talking about the story. Using target sounds in the meaningful context of a favorite book is a wonderful motivator and first step to carryover. Targets included in this product are bilabials, final consonant deletion, velar fronting, syllable omission, /s/ cluster reduction, stridency deletion, and the phonemes /s/, /l/, and /r/.

### **Letter Knowledge Activities**

Flashcards are included for 18 consonant letters. These cards can be used to help teach and reinforce letter identification as well as letter-sound correspondence. Both of these skills are key for learning to read.

### **Questions**

Asking children questions is an effective way to teach vocabulary, develop thinking skills, check for comprehension, and keep a child involved in reading a story. The questions for each children's book are arranged developmentally from "yes/no" questions to "why" questions, making it convenient to include children at a variety of levels in reviewing the same book. You may choose to ask the questions during or after reading the book as appropriate. Questions that pertain to the child's everyday experiences are included for follow-up discussions. As with all teaching, it is important to present and discuss the vocabulary in the book before asking the questions.

### **Expansion Activities**

Additional ideas are provided on pages 127-130 for each children's book so that you can further reinforce the speech and language goals of the lessons.

Through many years of working with small children as well as enjoying our own children, we have seen how effective it is to use favorite books as the basis for learning. We hope you will use and enjoy these ideas with your students as we all share the magic!

Janet and Lynn