Color and Sight Word Recognition

This Build-a-Book activity helps kindergartners build the basic skills of color recognition, sorting, letter-writing, and reading sight words as they create their own color books.

Materials:
- One Build-a-Book kit per child
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Nine 3x5 index cards for each child, with the following words written (one per card) in bold, black letters: red, purple, blue, pink, brown, black, yellow, orange, and tan

Teaching Sorting Skills:
- Ask children to spread all nine cards out in front of them on their work surface.
- Read the name of a color, and ask children to point to the correct word.
- After children have reviewed the color sight words, allow them to open their Build-a-Book kits and give several minutes to examine the contents.
- Tell children to sort the foam shapes from the kit onto the color cards. Red shapes go onto the card with the word red and so on.

Introduce the Project:
- Have children examine their blank books. Explain that they are going to make books about colors by creating blobs of color. Explain that blobs are shapeless and don’t have to represent anything. If desired, demonstrate blobs by dripping paint from a paintbrush onto a plain sheet of paper. Then take four or five foam shapes from the same color pile and say, “Watch while I make a color blob from these foam shapes. I’ll glue them
“together.” Demonstrate this on a right-hand page of the blank book. Encourage children to allow shapes to touch to create one abstract shape. On the facing page, write, “A red blob.”

- Ask children to select a color and glue a color blob together on a right-hand page. As with the red blob, have the children describe the color of the blob on the facing page and continue working until every set of facing pages is filled with blobs on the right and descriptive phrases on the left. Then have the class copy the color words from their index cards, or you can post all nine words before the children begin writing.

- Some children may need memory aids to remember the proper formation of some letters. The word “blob” gives additional opportunities for the writing of lower case “b.” The teacher can demonstrate the correct writing of “b” by forming a huge “b” in the air while saying, “Top, down, up a little, and around.” The children can practice the motion and spoken words several times before writing the letter on the page.

- When all pages are complete, have students turn to the front cover of the book and select a title, write it on the front cover, and fill in the author information on the second page of the book. The right-hand page facing the author page can be used as a title page, an “About the Author” page, or a page where students create a picture of one of their favorite things.

Teaching Reading Skills:
- Ask students to read their books to a partner.
- After several practices, have students share or read their books to the whole class as they sit in a designated Author’s Chair.

Extension Activities:
- Read aloud from a book about colors and place some color books in the independent reading center.
- Ask children to wrap their books up as a present for someone at home.
- Donate your students’ books to the school library so that future kindergartners can read them. Place the books in a basket and present them to the school librarian in a simple ceremony.

Notes/To Do: