

## Materials That Encourage Parent-Child Literacy Experiences

- ◆ Audiotapes of favorite stories and songs, to accompany books or song sheets
- ◆ Videotapes that model reading aloud and story discussions
- ◆ Regular newsletters that tell what literacy events have recently occurred in the classroom
- ◆ Monthly calendars with suggestions for literacy activities to do at home
- ◆ Monthly two-page activity handouts that tie classroom learning to familiar home routines and activities (Simmons, 2002)
- ◆ Short lists of good read-aloud books for various ages (infant, toddler, preschool, and elementary)
- ◆ A home-school journal, in which teachers write an anecdote or note about the child's progress, and parents are asked to respond
- ◆ A family literacy journal, sent home with a child-selected book to share. The child reads the pictures to his parents, and parents read the text back to the child. Parents are invited to comment on how the interaction went, and the teacher responds, asks questions, etc. (Harding, 1996)
- ◆ Exploration Kits: videos, books, or games, plus index cards with activity ideas on a particular topic
- ◆ Books for children to borrow and take home to read with their parents. Other materials that can be added to a lending library include toys, games, audio- and videotapes, dramatic play materials, puppets and other book-related props.
- ◆ Teddy bear (or other stuffed animal) with backpack, crayons, and a diary. The child dictates what the bear did while visiting his or her family (over the weekend perhaps), and parents write it in the diary. The child may illustrate it, and share it with the class later.
- ◆ Book backpacks: 20 backpacks, each containing several related books, a parenting book, a composition "comment book," and an inventory card. Possible topics: travel, monsters, water, fold and fair tales, health, families, favorite authors, buildings, port office, grandparents, ecology, birthday. Children keep the pack for one week, then take home a different one. A parent volunteer inventories the (Cohen, 1997)
- ◆ Literacy suitcases filled with writing materials: paper, fancy pencil, alphabet chart, name cards of all the children in the class, note to parents, note to child (Moomaw & Hieronymus, 2001)