

# THE ROAD AHEAD

Career Readiness- Preschool (0-5yrs)



AMERICAN  
PRINTING  
HOUSE





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# Objectives

- Define what career readiness means for young children
- Identify age-appropriate activities to embed career readiness using all areas of the ECC into everyday routines
- Correlate the importance of everyday activities with career readiness



# Can't Does Not Exist

“Never do for a child what you believe that child has the potential to do. Anticipate that they can do, make them prove that they can't. Begin by assuming that they can.”

Karen Wolffe, FAER



# DEFINING CAREER READINESS



# The What

- Same need as sighted children
- Incidental learning
- Direct experiences
  - Descriptive mediation (narration)



# Roles

## O&M

- Off campus orientation
- Off campus travel skills
- Cane skills

## TVI

- Support to academic/classroom needs and skills (NOT tutoring)

# Roles cont.

Body image (O&M)

Concept Dev. (2D TVI,  
3D O&M)

Sensory training (near  
TVI, Distance O&M)

Gross/Sensory motor (O&M)

Functional signs (on  
campus TVI, off O&M)

Health and eyes (TVI)

Social Skills (both)

Behaviors (ALL)

Living skills (both)

Career education (both)

Self-image/ understanding  
self (TVI, O&M adds mobility  
info)

On campus orientation  
(O&M, but TVI can assist)

On campus travel skills  
(O&M, TVI reinforce)

# More Roles

Who else?

- Physical Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Optometrist
- Ophthalmologist
- Low Vision Therapist



# **PRESCHOOL COMPETENCIES**





# Competency 1

## Learning to Listen

- Orient toward the speaker
- Attends to the speaker
- Appropriate Responses

# Competency 2

## Learning to Follow Directions

- Follow teacher's movement
- One-word directions
- More complex directions





# Competency 3

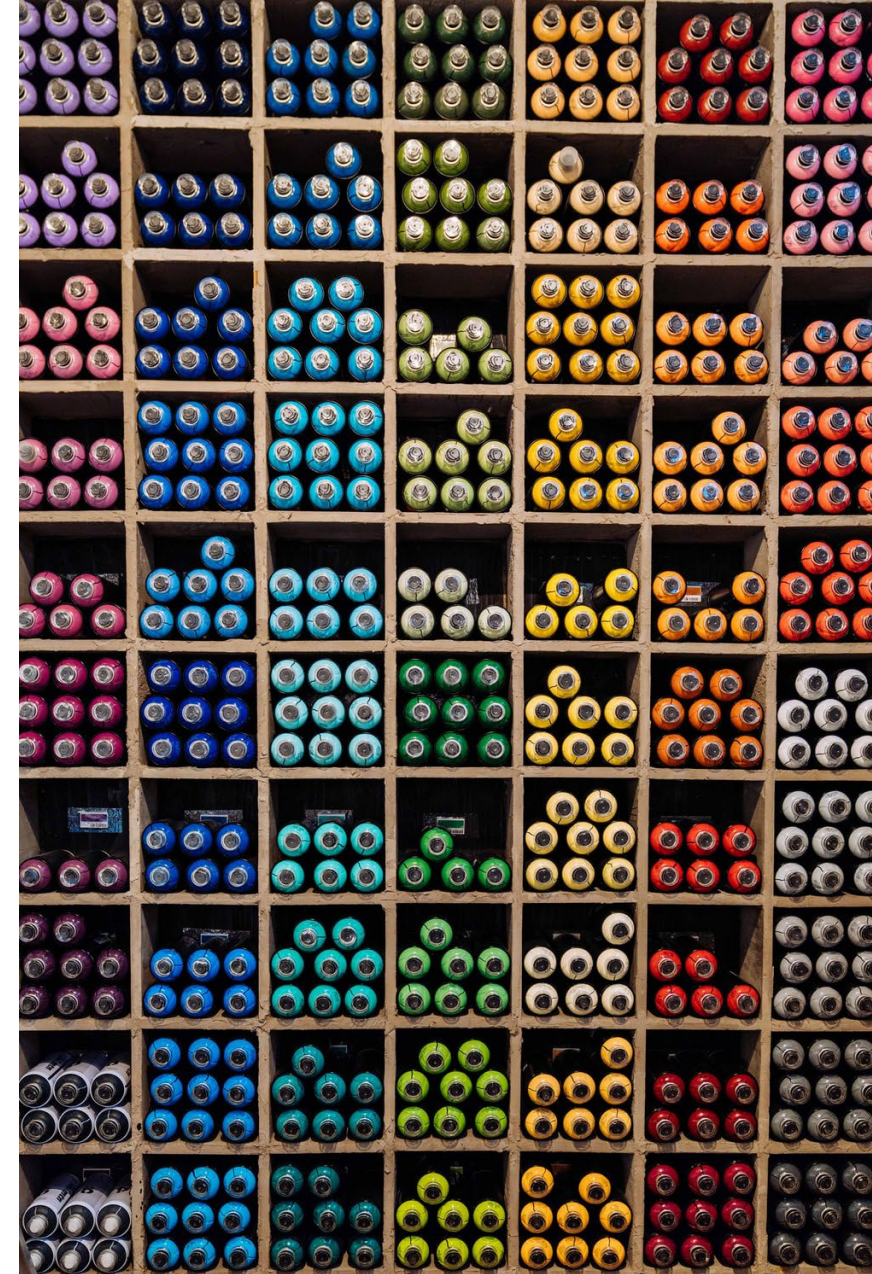
## Learning to be Responsible

- Takes turns
- Waits in line
- Puts supplies and belongings where they belong
- Follows class rules

# Competency 4

## Learning Basic Organizational Skills

- Uses appropriate storage
- Keeps track of personal items
- Well-defined spaces







# Competency 5

## Learning to Play

- Engages in play
  - Stages of play development
  - Solitary
  - Playground

# Competency 6

## Fantasizing About Adult Roles

- Drama
  - Make-belief
  - Dress-up
- Conversations with adults





# **FAMILIES AND CHILDREN: B-3**

Jeri Hart





# Teaming with Families

- Infant Mental Health Approach
- Listening to the parent's story
- Understanding their culture
- What is most important to them?
- "How you are is as important as what you do." *Jeree Pawl*

# Early Intervention is Not a Recipe

## Concept development

- Experiential Learning
- Body Rhythmics Songs

## Base for language

- Descriptive mediation: Tell the baby what you are going to do before you do it
- Object Communication
- Using Anticipation

## Literacy

- Introducing print/braille board books



# Hula Hoop



- Exploring textures
- Encouraging independence
- Pivot in prone



# **ORIENTATION & MOBILITY**

Nan McMillan



# Importance of O&M



Overlap skills

Organizational & Systematic  
Search

Following Directions & Routes

Encouraging independence

Safe travel skills



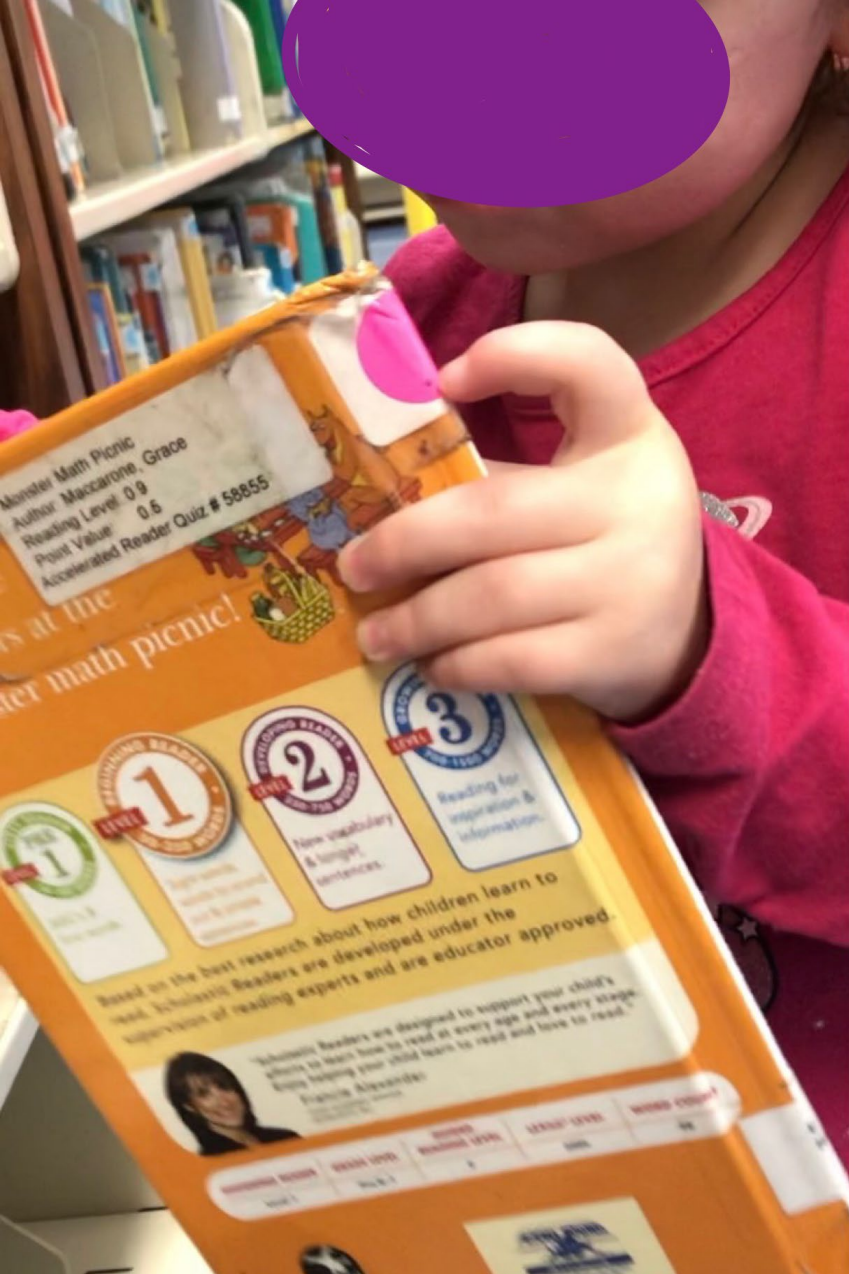
# Classroom Jobs 1

**Let the blind child have a job!**

Target Competencies

- Learning to Listen
- Following Directions
- Learning to be Responsible
- Organizational Skills





## Classroom Jobs 2

- Specific language
- Pre-teaching the jobs
- Find a role during clean-up
- Searching for toys on a time crunch
- Set them up for success!!!

# The Power of Pretend

## Target Competencies

- Learning to play
- Learning to be responsible
- Learning to listen
- Organizational skills
- Following Directions



# Worker Exposure 1

## Target Competencies

- Learning to Listen
- Learning to be responsible





# Worker Exposure 2

At school

- Explore one school-based job a month

In the community

- Make an outing focusing on a community worker
- Allow child to lead
  - Try and go with their interest



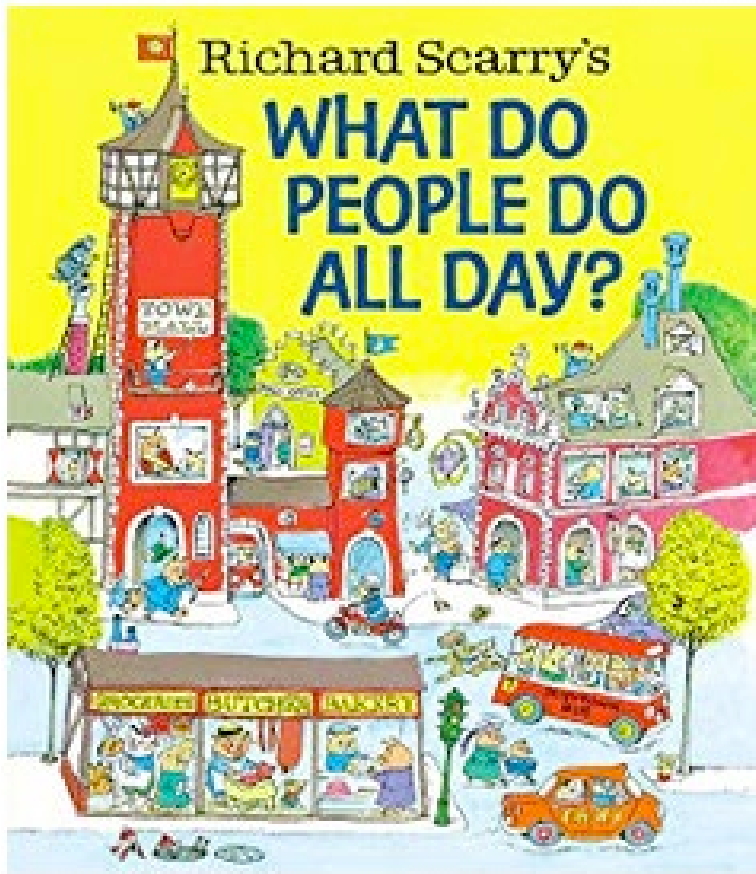
# GENERAL IDEAS



# Tools & Hints

- Ecological Inventory
- Discrepancy Analysis
- Consult and O&M
- Perception of the environment
- Buddy System- Observational opportunities
- Provide immediate, consistent, constructive, and positive verbal reinforcement
- Realistic comparisons!

# Literacy opportunities 1



## Richard Scarry books

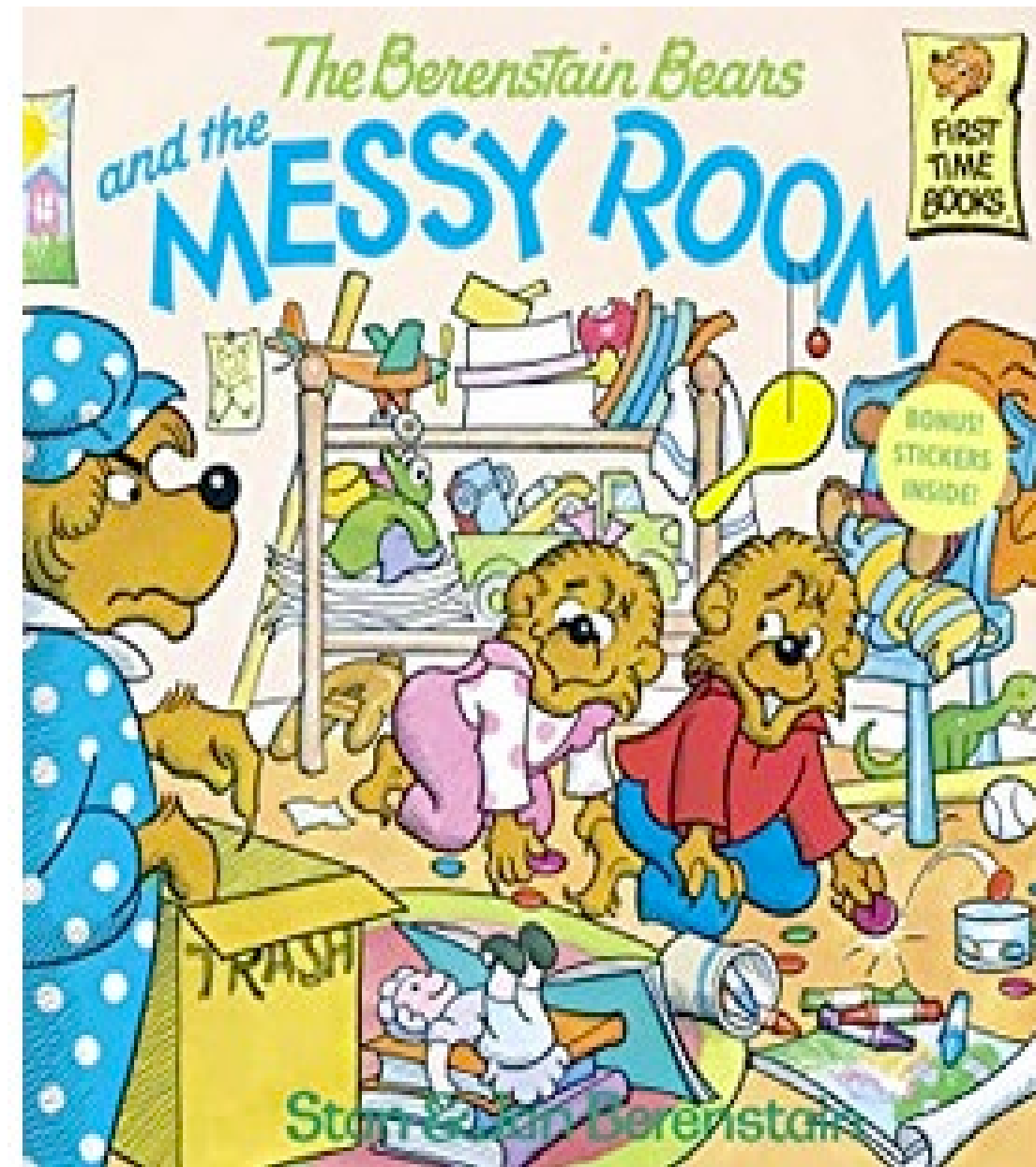
- Best Word book ever
- Busy, Busy World
- A Day at the Fire Station
- A Day at the Airport

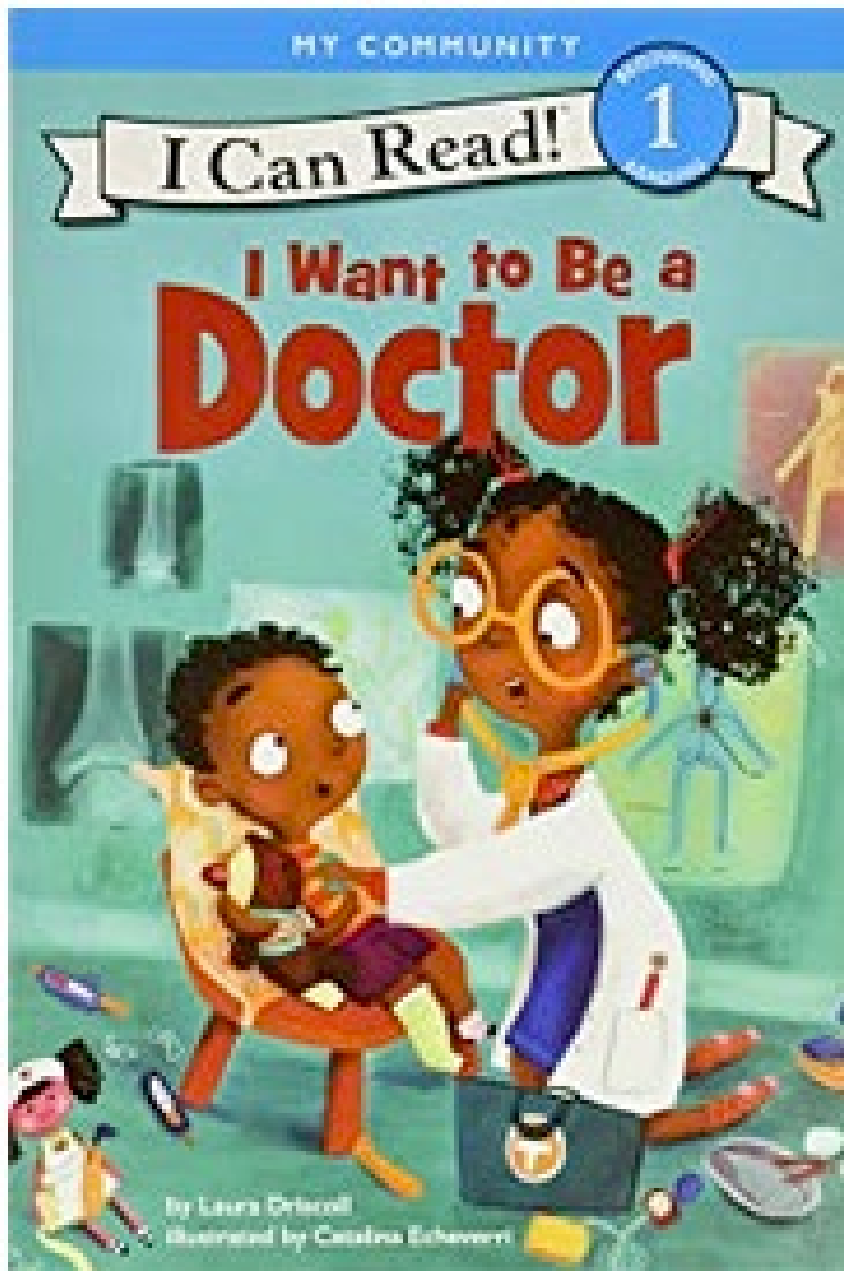


# Literacy opportunities 2

Berenstain Bears books

- Messy Room
- Trouble with Chores
- Going to the Doctor
- Visit the Dentist

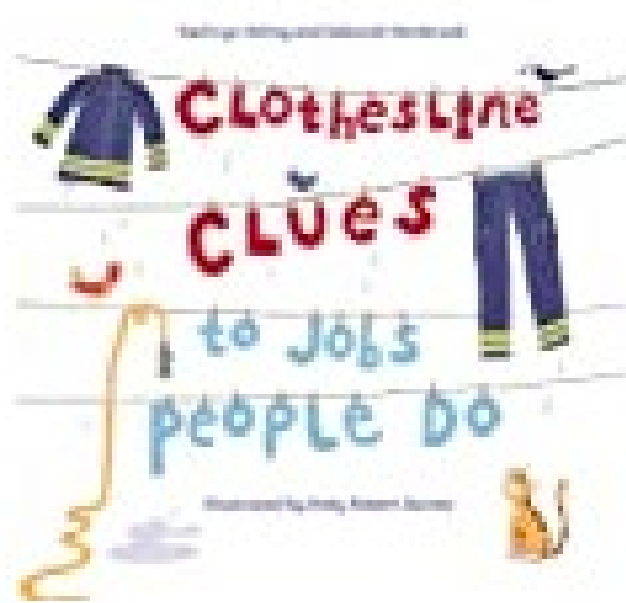




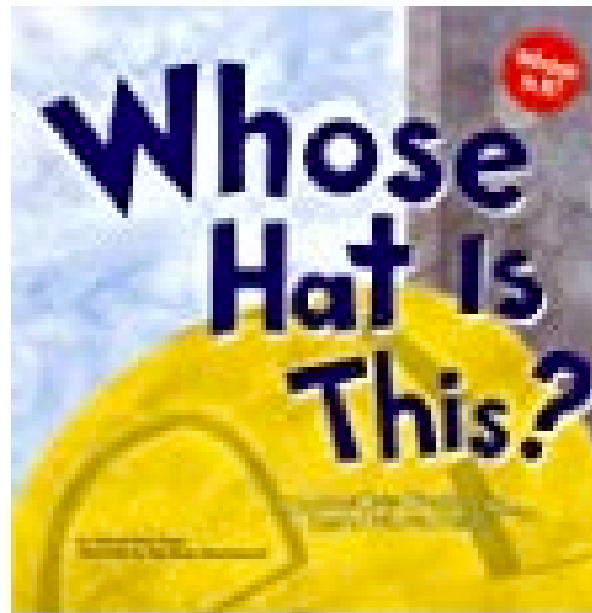
## Literacy Opportunities 3

- I Can Read Series
- 6 levels
- Guided A-K

# Literacy Opportunities 4



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# Activities

- Scavenger Hunts
- Outings ANYWHERE
- Conversations
- Take your child to work
- Family Camps



# REFERENCES



# Book Sources

- Wolffe, K. E. (Ed.). (1998). *Skills for success: A career education handbook for children and adolescents with visual impairments*. AFB Press.
- Wolffe, K. (2017). Career Education. In *Foundations of Education, Third edition: Volume I: History and theory of teaching children and youths with visual impairments* (3rd ed., Vol. 1, pp. 831–874). AFB Press.

# THE ROAD AHEAD- PRESCHOOL

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