



3/10/2025

Hot Springs Early Childhood Association

Presentation: Fall In Love With Reading, Arkansas Children's Week 2025

Training Minutes

There were 21 people in attendance. Four board members were present.

Julie Yarberry was the presenter for the evening.

Melanie Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting. She shared that she is available to offer training sessions upon request. She also reminded everyone of the upcoming Dinner and Tribute in April. Everyone was reminded that tickets would be drawn for door prizes at the end of class. She then introduced Julie Yarberry as the presenter for the evening.

Ms. Yarberry told everyone a little about herself and stated that we would be learning about teaching children to be lovers of reading. She passed out name tags and instructed the class participants to write the name of their favorite book character on their tag. Class participants were then encouraged to introduce themselves by the name they had written on their tag and to share why they chose that name.

Class participants were given handouts for notes concerning their first thoughts about the topic. A picture of an adult reading a book to a child was shown. Ms. Yarberry explained it was referred to as the "magic triangle" when an adult holds a child or sits close to a child to read a book. We talked in groups at our tables about "where do the books live?".

Participants learned about four kinds of books: books that explore the rhythms and sounds of language, books that help answer questions, books that tell stories, and books that reinforce concepts. Books can invite us to play with words and sounds, help us answer questions, tell engaging stories, reinforce concepts, and more.

When we read a story, we use timing, tone, and technique.

Participants were divided into groups. Each group chose a book to read. We then identified the threshold (boundary), front and back cover, and the author and illustrator. Each group then preread the book they had chosen. Notes were taken about the story concerning the threshold, background, optimizing engagement, the art, hidden treasures (vocabulary), and making meaning. We read the book to our group, then as a final activity, we read it to a larger group and that group read theirs.

Melanie thanked Ms. Yarberry. Tickets were drawn for door prizes. Class was dismissed at 7:58 p.m.