

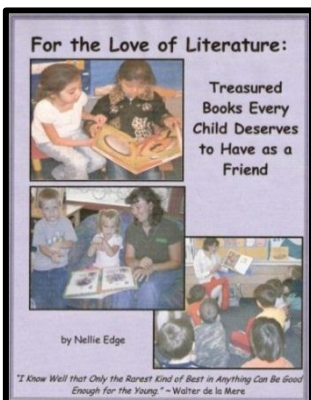
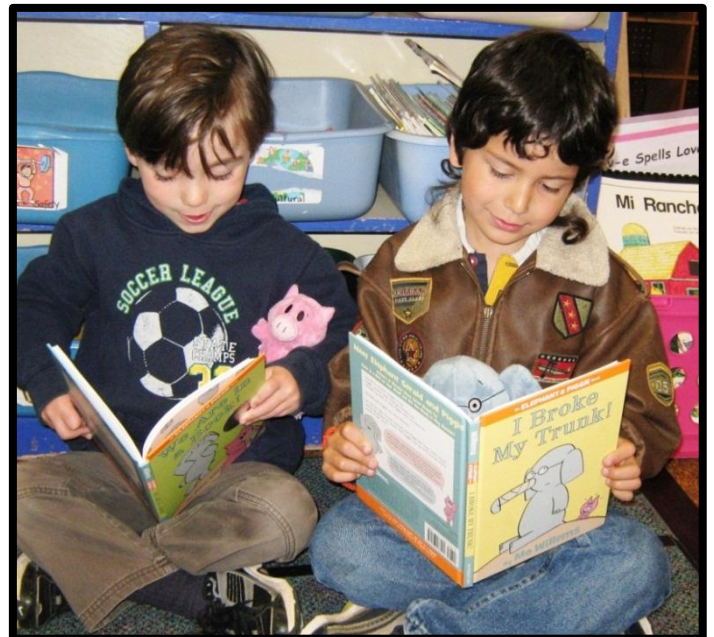
For the Love of Literacy Through Song Picture Books and Delightful Literature: Real Books Create Real Readers!

We begin the year sharing several Nellie Edge Read and Sing Big Books™ every



morning. *I Can Read Colors, I Have a Cat, I Love the Mountains, Mary Wore Her Red Dress, The More We Get Together, Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, The Opposite Song, and Goodnight Irene* have become favorites. **The accompanying "little books" and "guided reading books" are used for large group shared reading and are taken home for family literacy as a part of our Read and Sing Book Club.** Children are soon able to move from "magical memory reading" with fluency and delight to reading with confidence and word-for-word accuracy. For many children, these song picture Big Books became their touchstone: An affirmation of "I can read!" That was the case with Amada who all year long read and sang ♪ *Irene Goodnight*... Her beautiful singing and love of the book often drew a circle of classmates around to join her.

Later in the year our "Elephant and Piggie Book Club" motivates young readers. Children build fluency with 16 of Mo Willems' delightful books at home, bringing each new one back to school in a special padded book bag envelope. Each book is read to three different people who initial the book club recording sheet. Parents soon came to understand that their child's motivation to read real books is the key to building a real reader (and they enjoy the Elephant and Piggie tales as much as the children do!).



Information about the Nellie Edge Read and Sing Book Club will be available online late spring, 2012. For more information about favorite books for young children and building literacy through quality literature, see *For the Love of Literature: Treasured Books Every Child Deserves to Have as a Friend*, by Nellie Edge, available in 2012.