

# How to Create a Culture of Book Lovers and Keep the Joy of Reading Alive in Kindergarten!

Updated January 16, 2024



Nellie Edge Read and Sing Big Books™, TPT



Kim Adsit's reading workshop, TPT

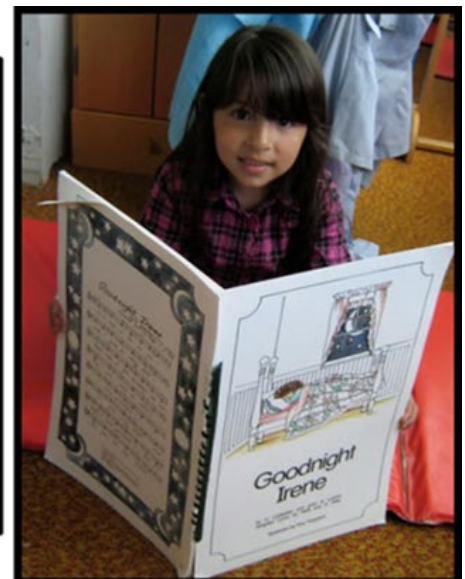


Nellie Edge Poetry Notebook, TPT

## Consider These 10 Best Practices That Develop an Attitude of "I Can Read!" and "I Love to Read!"

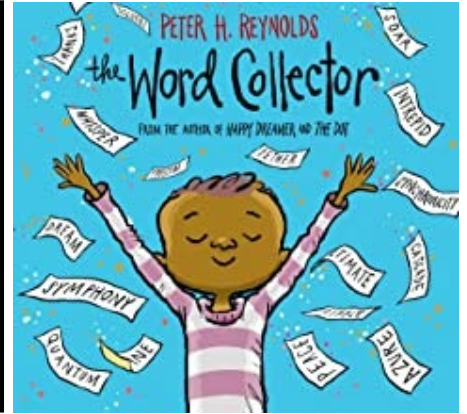
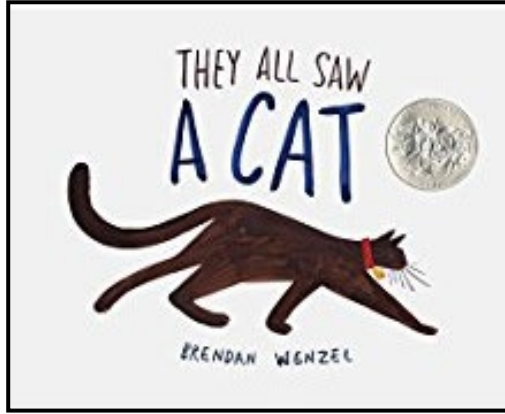
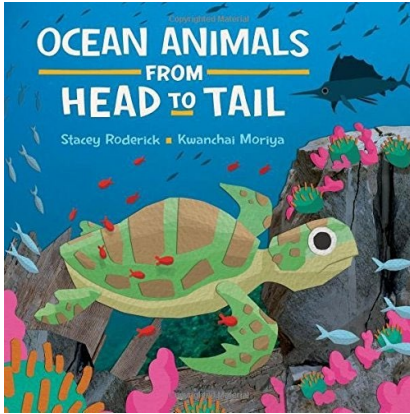
How do accomplished kindergarten teachers create a culture of book lovers and multiply their teaching effectiveness with Families as Partners? The science of reading and decades of best practices research support a comprehensive approach to reading. Here are 10 proven strategies that build a culture of book lovers!

Our goal is that students will develop vocabulary, comprehension, and oral language fluency, reach phonics proficiency, and not only learn to read and write but **love** to read and write! Now and forever.

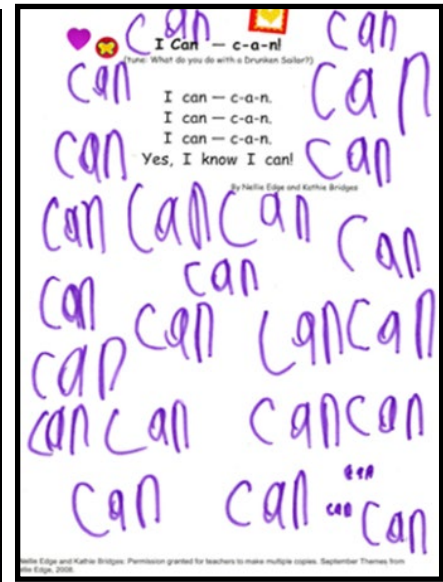
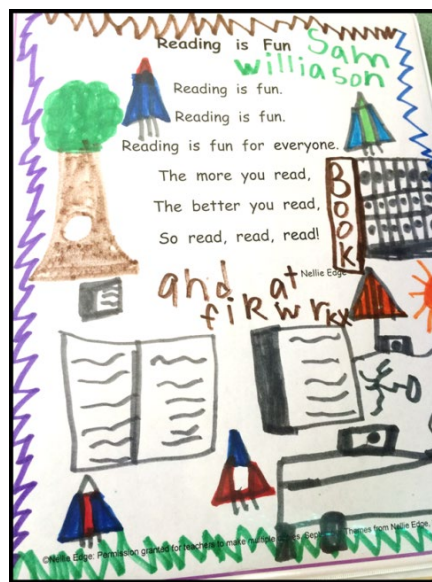




1. **Give children "I Can Read!" experiences!** Begin the year with "read-every-word" phonics books, and predictable books and rhymes that children "read-in-other-ways." Build community and language fluency with well-loved Read and Sing Big Books™, and memorable songs, poems and rhymes.



2. **Give children quality fiction and nonfiction studies to build language, vocabulary, comprehension, and a love of learning.** Invite children into the world of story through open-ended questions, drama, movement, art, dance, sign language and mime. Teach reader respect, book care, how to put books back where they belong, and invite children to join the "Book Lovers Club."

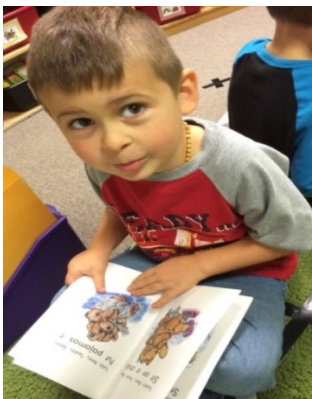
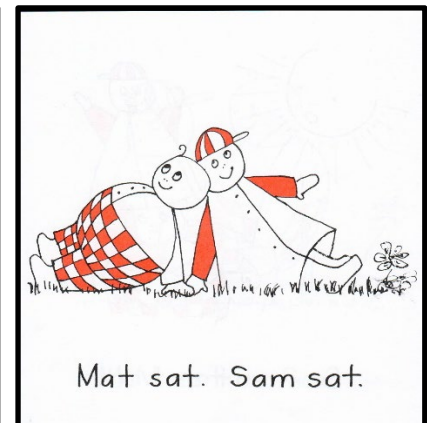
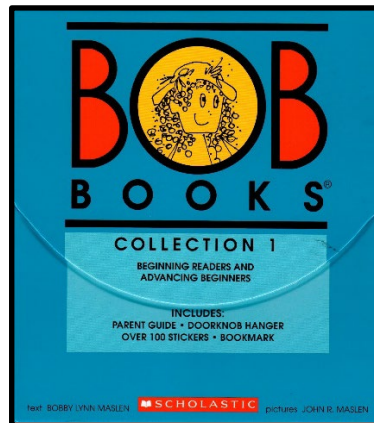


3. **Create an "I Can Read" Poetry Notebook program** of carefully selected songs, poems, and rhymes. Build oral language fluency, artistic expression, and an "I can do it" growth mindset. Send notebooks home for family literacy: additional time to provide practice memorizing, reciting, and performing language.





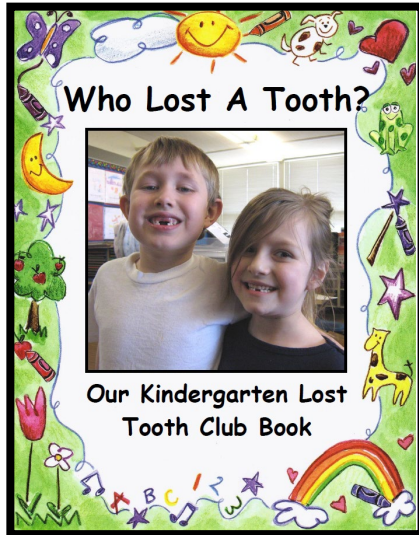
4. **Build and organize an inviting class library** with clearly-labeled books, bins, individual student book boxes, and cozy places to read. Talk about favorite books.
5. **Honor the science of reading with a comprehensive reading curriculum.** Use *ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!* to build the reading brain. Give children books that celebrate our diversity. Provide **intentional, systematic phonemic awareness and phonics instruction.** *Bob Books* are our favorite “read-every-word” books.



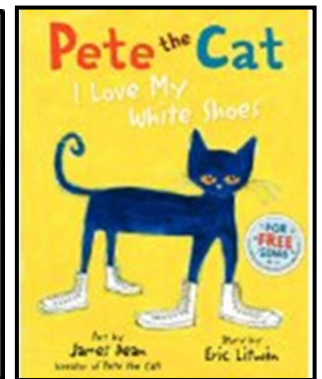
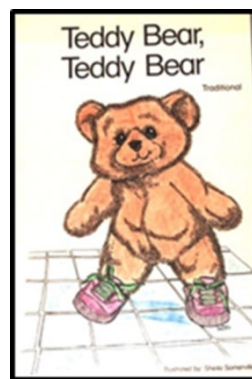
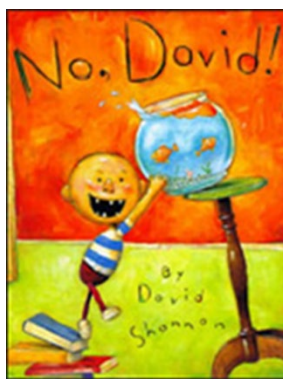
6. **Teach children to touch under words and read-to-self and buddy read**, thus building independence and stamina! These strategies enhance any comprehensive reading program. Begin the year with writing-to-read strategies to build mastery



of writing-to-read "heart word" sentences. Daily "kid writing" (encoding sounds to print) supports early phonics instruction.

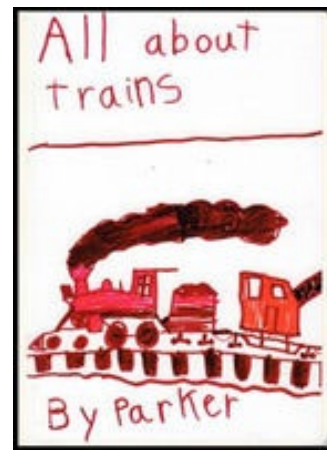
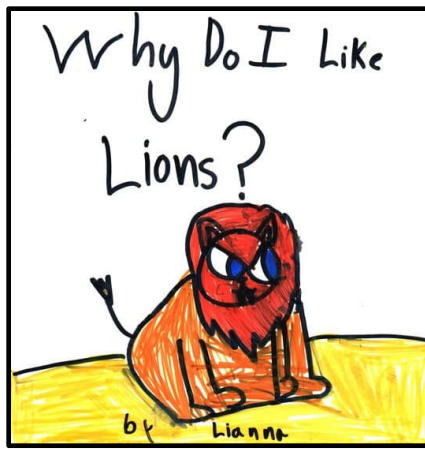


7. Create simple and well-loved class-made books featuring the lives of your children. They learn "my life is worth reading and singing about."



8. Develop a great collection of well-loved predictable books that every kindergartner can feel successful "reading." We call them "E is for Everybody Books!" These are "read-in-other-ways" books that allow children to build oral language fluency and experience the joys of being a book lover!





9. Build kindergarten writers with an authentic, comprehensive writing curriculum that invites children to create their own books, becoming authors and illustrators. We begin the year building circles of writing mastery with high-frequency "heart word" sentences. This mastery gives students the memory space to do the hard work of encoding sounds to print with new words. Yes, kindergartners can learn to fearlessly tackle any new word!



Nellie Edge Read and Sing Book Club		Name
I Can Hear Colors	I Can Read Colors	Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear
I Love the Mountains	Oh, A-Hunting We Will Go	Down on Grandpa's Farm
I Can Spell Cat	I Have A Cat	The More We Get Together
Jack-O-Faces	Miss Mary Mock	Goodnight Irene
Mary Wore Her Red Dress	Mary Wore Her Red Dress	Five Little Speckled Frogs

Please read and sing each book to two different people and ask for their initials under the book title.  
Happy Reading and Singing!  
For more details about The Read and Sing Book Club and the Read & Sing Tab at [www.nelliedge.com](http://www.nelliedge.com)



10. Multiply your teaching effectiveness with Families as Partners. Create Family Read-at-Home Book Clubs for home-to-school literacy. Establish nightly family reading routines. Keep reading alive over the summer.



[See Writing Resources on TPT](#)

Joyful, authentic resources kids love  
Multisensory ♥ art-rich ♥ engaging

Learn more: [Nellie Edge Resources](#) • Follow us on YouTube