

Workshop:

WordWorld “Happy Birthday, Dog” (1 hour - 1 1/2 hour)

WordWorld is a preschool series for 3 to 5 year-olds, in which words are truly the stars of the show. WordWorld combines funny characters, classic storytelling, gorgeous animation, and lively music with respected methods of early reading instruction to create one of the most entertaining, innovative ways to help preschoolers get ready to read!

Goal of Workshop:

Participants will learn how WordWorld helps bridge the gap between children recognizing letters and learning to read. Early literacy skills are important for children’s development and lay the foundation for reading competency. WordWorld brings words to life in a fun, engaging and tangible way for three to five-year-olds, demonstrating that letters represent sounds, sounds make up words and words stand for real things in their world. The connection between letters, words and meaning is crystallized before their eyes.

Potential Audience(s):

- Educators, child care professionals, caregivers and parents
- PTA, Early Childhood and other educational-based organizations
- Child care and related conferences
- Libraries
- Museums
- Station / organization meetings with funders and sponsors
- Lunch and learn workshops hosted for businesses, community groups, etc.



Materials Needed:

- DVD player and monitor
- Optional white board for participant responses
- Access to WordWorld Station Online Toolkit: www.wordworld.com/toolkit
- Computer w/Internet connection & projection screen at presentation site (optional, but preferred)
- WordWorld Episode- 101B “Happy Birthday, Dog” and Show Open – download from the Online Toolkit: www.wordworld.com/toolkit/watch.html
- Build a Word Clip “CAKE” - download from the Online Toolkit: www.wordworld.com/toolkit/builds.html
- Ice-Breaker: Download letters C-A-K-E and WordThing™ C-A-K-E representative letters from: www.wordworld.com/toolkit/builds.html
- Print out examples of WordThings and WordFriends™ from: www.wordworld.com/toolkit/builds.html (optional- if you have WordFriend plush available to you, those can be used as well)
- Optional group activity “Decorate a WordFriend or WordThing” - Print out WordFriend and WordThing Coloring Sheets from: www.wordworld.com/toolkit/activities.html
- Craft material suggestions for optional “Decorate WordFriend or WordThing” group activity: magnetic tape (found in craft stores), paper, construction paper, crayons, markers, glue, glitter glue, feathers, string, pipe cleaners, buttons, sparkles, pom-poms, twigs, tissue paper, etc.
- Curriculum Overview and optional Curriculum Content Analysis - download from: www.wordworld.com/toolkit/outreach.html
- Handouts and takeaways of your choice (One-Sheet, Pointers for Parents, Episode Descriptions, Activity Sheets, etc.) are available on: www.wordworld.com/toolkit/outreach.html
- Print out Parent Activity Handout “My Very Own Birthday Party Book” for “Happy Birthday, Dog” from: <http://pbskids.org/wordworld/activities/index.html>
- Children’s books: A Birthday Basket for Tia by Pat Mora; Happy Birthday to You by Dr. Seuss; A Birthday for Frances by Russell Hoban. If you don’t have access to these books then provide them with a list of the books.



Step 1: Welcome and Get Acquainted (15 minutes):

- Introduce yourself and thank participants for attending. Explain to participants that this workshop will explore how the WordWorld television series, online and print resources introduce children to the wonderful world of reading by bringing words to life in a fun and tangible way, demonstrating that letters represent sounds, sounds make up words and words stand for real things.
- Address housekeeping issues – e.g. bathrooms, cell phones, asking questions, etc.
- Begin Ice-Breaker Activity:

The Build a Word Song

“It’s time to build a word. Let’s build it. Let’s build it now!”

“Yeah, we just built a word. We built it. We built it!”

- Distribute letters C-A-K-E and WordThing C-A-K-E representative letters randomly to participants. (Note: if it’s a very large group, you may want to hand out letters randomly to only a few participants)
- View the Build a Word “CAKE” Clip and as it’s playing, say, “It’s time to Build a Word!”
- Encourage participants to jump up and come to the front of the room to try to find others who can help build both the real word CAKE with the plain letters and WordThing CAKE along with the clip.
- The clip will probably have to be played several times.
- Have participants share their thoughts on the skills introduced.

Step 2: Setting the Stage for WordWorld (10 minutes)

- Tell participants that you’re going to show them a sample of WordWorld, the Show Open. As they watch, encourage them to sing and dance along.
- Play the WordWorld Show Open.
- After the viewing, ask participants to talk about what three to five-years olds could learn from even this small segment of the show. (Optional: Responses can be written on a white board)
- Then tell participants that WordWorld is a magical world made up of words– where storytelling begins with Word Play, allowing children to see how letters are put together to form words. Right before their eyes, these words come alive as playmates called WordFriends - like ANT and SHEEP – and familiar objects called WordThings – like BALL and TRUCK!”



Step 3: Using WordWorld with Children (30-40 minutes)

- Discuss the WordWorld curriculum which draws from four skill sets, that are critical in building emergent literacy skills in young children. Every storyline incorporates at least one skill from each of the following skill sets: print awareness; phonological sensitivity and letter knowledge; comprehension – including vocabulary development; and, socio-emotional skills.
- Provide participants with the Curriculum Overview and optional Curriculum Content Analysis handouts at this time or make reference that it will be available in their take-away materials.
- View the full episode of “Happy Birthday, Dog”. While viewing, use a few of the suggested places to pause the video and ask participants open ended questions:
 - a) After the Narrator sounds out the word HAT-- encourage participants to share what emergent literacy skills they saw and heard.
 - b) After PIG spells out his name -- encourage participants to share what emergent literacy skills they saw and heard.
 - c) After statement “The CAKE is ruined” -- encourage participants to think about what will happen next.
 - d) After the Build a Word song -- encourage participants to share what emergent literacy and socio-emotional skills they saw and heard.
 - e) Discuss new vocabulary learned
- Optional “Decorate a WordFriend or WordThing” group activity- Have participants create their own WordFriend or WordThing by providing them with various WordFriend/Thing coloring sheets which they can decorate using craft materials.
- You can also have them create their own WordFriend/Thing (i.e. their name, pet’s name, etc) and have them draw and decorate it.
- They can turn them into a refrigerator magnet by attaching flexible magnetic tape to the back of their WordThing or WordFriend.
- If time allows, encourage each participant to share his/her WordFriend or WordThing by telling you a short story about their WordFriend/Thing. The story can be real or imagined. If the group is large, you might break them into smaller groups.



Step 4: Developmentally Appropriate Practices to Enhance Viewing (15 minutes)

- Talk about the fact that children learn through repetition. The word CAKE is repeated multiple times in the “Happy Birthday, Dog” episode to reinforce learning.
- In using media as an educational tool, we emphasize that viewing needs to be supported by developmentally appropriate activities.
- Examples of developmentally appropriate ways to use the episodes/clips with children are:
 - Singing, clapping and dancing along to the episodes/clips
 - Drawing pictures/words related to the episodes/clips
 - Encouraging children to join in and react to what they see
 - When a word appears on the screen ask them to say each letter out loud
 - Reading books related to the theme of the episode/clip
 - Asking the children what they could do with the word that was built
 - Asking the children for words that rhyme with the word built
- Reiterate: reading is a rich and rewarding experience that helps children build their literacy skills. Now let’s connect the lesson for today from our viewing and activity with a book that will reinforce the word CAKE.
- Show participants copies of suggested books that feature a similar theme.
- Ask participants “What word did we build today?” Encourage participants to shout out the word –CAKE. Say, let’s read a book that is about a CAKE using one of the suggested books. Tell participants as you read the story, when you come to the word CAKE in the story, you will point to a table and the group must stand up with their Build a Word CAKE and say the word and spell it out.
- Have participants brainstorm some activities that they can do with children to reinforce their learning the word CAKE. Thank participants for their wonderful suggestions.
- Provide a brief overview of resources available on the WordWorld website www.pbskids.org/wordworld including Parents & Teachers section. If possible connect to the WordWorld website and show participants the rich curriculum based resources available.
- Distribute the “Happy Birthday, Dog” parent activity and review it if time allows, or make reference that it will be available in their take-away materials.



Step 5: Wrap Up (5-10 minutes)

- Review main points of the workshop or ask participants to share some of the things they learned that they would apply to their children to promote emergent literacy. (Optional: Responses can be written on a white board)
- Remind the participants when WordWorld is aired, and for educational purposes they can record the show and use in educational setting for one year from broadcast date. Tell them that DVDs are available at Target, Toys R Us and other retail outlets.
- Remind them of the rich resources on the website and provide address:
www.pbskids.org/wordworld
- Thank everyone for participating.

