

Workshop: WordWorld “Runaway O ” (45 minutes to an 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 - 101 A "Runaway O" and Show Open – download from the Online Toolkit: www.wordworld.com/toolkit/watch.html
- Build a Word Clip "BOX" -- download from the Online Toolkit: www.wordworld.com/toolkit/builds.html
- Ice-Breaker – Download letters B-O-X and WordThing™ B-O-X 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 toys available, those can be used as well)
- 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 "Going on an O Hunt" for "Runaway O" from: <http://pbskids.org/wordworld/activities/index.html>
- Children's books: Owen by Kevin Henkes; Olivia by Ian Falconer; Oops! A Preston Pig Story by Colin McNaughton; Oscar, Me, and the Letter O by Cynthia Fitterer Klingel and Robert B. Noyed. If you don't have access to these books then provide them with a list of the books.



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 WordPlay, 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 BOX and TRUCK.
- Show examples of WordThings and WordFriends.

Step 3: Using WordWorld with Children (25 minutes)

- Explain Storyline: In the “Runaway O” episode BEAR and SHEEP snoop around a BOX delivered to CAT and break it! The letters B-O-X scatter, sending the WordFriends on a crazy chase to catch the runaway letter O before CAT wakes up.
- Let attendees know that each WordWorld episode contains a Build a Word Clip.
- View the Build a Word Clip where the WordFriends build the word BOX.
- 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 B-O-X and WordThing B-O-X 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 “BOX” 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 BOX with the plain letters and WordThing BOX along with the clip.
- The clip will probably have to be played several times.
- Have participants share their thoughts on the skills introduced.



- Sum up their comments by saying that the WordWorld curriculum draws from four skill sets which 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, self- awareness and socio-emotional skills.
- Ask participants which skill set(s) were included in the Build a Word Clip.
- Provide participants with the Curriculum Overview and optional Curriculum Content Analysis hand outs at this time or make reference that it will be available in their take-away materials.
- Talk about the fact that children learn through repetition. The word BOX is repeated multiple times in the “Runaway O ” episode to reinforce learning.
- In using media as an educational tool, we emphasize that viewing needs to be supported by developmentally appropriate activities and reading books.
- Show participants copies of suggested books featuring the letter “O” or provide them with a list of the books.
- Discuss with participants the importance of reading to and with children to build literacy skills. The tone and amount of detail will change according to the type and sophistication of the participants.
- Provide a brief overview of resources available at: www.pbskids.org/wordworld. If possible, connect to the website and show participants the rich curriculum resources available, and that there are many more activities that can be done in the classroom or at home available in the Parents & Teachers section of the site.
- If connection isn’t possible, give them the website link.
- Distribute the “Runaway O” parent activity.
 - Review the activities.
 - If time allows have participants do or play one of them (Going on an O Hunt, “O” Hide and Seek, “O” Concentration Game, “O” Freeze Dance).
 - Ask participants how they might use the activity to reinforce the Build a Word BOX Clip with children to promote literacy.
- Reiterate: reading is a rich and rewarding experience that helps children build their literacy skills.



Step 4: Wrap Up (5 minutes)

- Review main points of the workshop. Mention any remaining available handouts or takeaways.
- 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.

