A Few of My Favorite Things
Presented by Deniece Honeycutt at Pre-K ELLA Inservice 2011

Children’s Books:

**Butterflies and Moths by Bishop (2009)** The full-page images in this book and simple text introduce young readers to the basic information about the insects’ appearance, habits, and life cycle.

**Frogs by Bishop (2008)** Another book which is sure to please young readers conveys information about frogs through stupendous photographs and engaging straightforward text.

**Just One Bite by Schaefer (2011)** Presents a variety of creatures and what they can eat in life size detail. The language is simple and uses repetition of the first three words of each sentence to capture a young child’s attention. A great companion book would be **Actual Size** by Jenkins.

**Hello Baby by Fox (2009)** This rhyming text asks baby who are you? Through sharing this story a joyful connection is gained between parent and child while meeting a bevy of baby animals.

**Birds by Henkes (2009)** While this book is written to convey a young narrator’s fascination with her environment it is still a great science book. It helps young readers to develop a sense of exploration into more abstract thinking and “what if” conversations.

**First the Egg by Seeger (2009)** This concept book explores the egg, chick and chicken then repeats this series with a flower, frog and butterfly. The clever conclusion turns away from nature to explore the “first the word then the story” and
“first the paint then the picture” and brings readers back to the opening of the book.

**Goldilocks and the Three Bears by Spirin (2009).** This is the traditional tale with unbelievably detailed pictures of the characters. As School Library Journal states, “Spririn’s version of this classic pairs a simple, straightforward retelling with lush Renaissance costumes and elegant page designs.

**The Alphabet War by Robb and Piazza (2004)** tells the story of Adam, who, because of his difficulty with letter reversals and phonemic awareness, is experiencing his own alphabet war. Adam’s frustration increases, and he begins to bother other children or escape through daydreaming. In third grade, he finally receives the help that he needs; and in fourth grade, he develops the confidence to recognize that he is not stupid, just different. The illustrations are the most intriguing and imaginative aspect of this book. For example, they show Adam in a cowboy outfit lassoing the letter A, Adam under a microscope (when he is being assessed), and Adam sitting on the planet Neptune and daydreaming.

**Dad and Me in the Morning by Lakin and Steele (1994)** is about Jacob who awakens to his flashing alarm clock. He puts on his hearing aids, tiptoes down the hall, and wakes his father. They walk together to the beach to wait for the sunrise. Jacob and his father talk to each other in various ways, including signing, lip reading, or "just squeezing each other's hands." This book is a tender portrayal of a boy and his father enjoying the changing colors in the clouds and sky and each other. The illustrations are vivid and striking. This book won the Schneider Family Award.

**My Brother Sammy by Edwards (2000)** Sammy’s brother tells the reader that Sammy is special because he goes to a different school on a different bus and learns in different ways. He also likes to play in different ways, like watching the sand fall between his fingers rather than building a sand castle. Sammy’s brother expresses feelings typical of a
sibling of a child with autism-sadness, embarrassment, loneliness, and frustration. At the end of the book, Sammy learns that he is Sammy's special brother, which helps him see life from a new perspective.

*See the Ocean by Condra (2006)* Nellie is a young girl who is blind; however, her blindness is not evident until the end of the story. The fog is thick when Nellie and her family approach the ocean on their annual visit to the beach; and for the first time, Nellie can "see" the ocean with her other senses before her brothers see it with their eyes. Nellie's blindness does not prevent her from feeding crumbs to the seagulls, throwing pebbles into ponds, and enjoying the feeling of seashells and driftwood. The beautiful oil paintings that illustrate this book hide Nellie's eyes under her hat.

*My Pal, Victor/Mi Amigo, Victor by Gonzales (2004)* Dominic relates all the wonderful things he does with his best friend Victor; telling scary stories at sleepovers, swimming at the pool, riding rollercoasters. The surprise ending is learning that Victor uses a wheelchair. This book has bilingual text in English and Spanish. This book was the winner of the Schneider Family Book Award in 2005.

*Dancing with Katya by Chaconas (2006)* The setting is a Wisconsin farm in the 1920s. Sisters Anna and Katya love pretending to be ballerinas' dancing in the meadows until Katya falls ill with polio. She returns from a long hospital stay in bulky leg braces but Anna finds a new way for Katya to dance.

*Sisters & Brothers by Page and Jenkins (2008)* This book is packed with animal facts. This book provides enough factual information on all kinds of creatures' behaviors and physical attributes to satisfy any age group. This would provide a wonderful addition to a science center and is a fascinating approach to a discussion about families.
**Brothers and Sisters by Dwight (2005)**  This photo essay book is about school age siblings one of whom has a disability—hearing or visual impairment, Down syndrome, or prosthesis. This book emphasizes playing together and everyday family life.

**Featherless/Desplumado: Story/Cuento by Herrera (2004).** Spina bifida keeps Tomasito in a wheelchair, where he often feels like his featherless pet bird, esplumado, who cannot fly. But with a friend’s encouragement, Tomasito finds freedom on the soccer field. This book has bilingual text in English and Spanish.

**Dad, Jackie, and Me by Uhlberg (2005).** This setting for this book is Brooklyn, New York; 1947. A boy learns about discrimination and tolerance as he and his father who is deaf share their enthusiasm over baseball and the Dodgers’ first African American player, Jackie Robinson. This book won the Schneider Family Book Award, 2006.

**The Making of My Special Hand: Madison’s Story by Riggio (2000).** Madison, a little girl born with one hand, tells about having a hand-made specifically for her. She explains all the stages involved in fitting her for a battery-operated prosthesis that allows her to open and close her new hand.

**Don’t Call Me Special by Thomas (2005).** This book explores questions and concerns about physical disabilities in a simple and reassuring way. Younger children can find out about individual disabilities, special equipment that is available to help the disabled, and how people of all ages can deal with disabilities and live happy and full lives.
**Llama, Llama, Red Pajama by Dewdney (2005).** Baby Llama, all tucked in and kissed after his bedtime story, watches his mama leave the room with a worried expression on his face. When he calls her and she does not come back immediately, he succumbs to a fit of wailing and weeping, finally bringing his panic-stricken mother at a full gallop. After her reassurance that "Mama Llama's always near, even if she's not right here," Baby Llama settles and drifts off to sleep.

**Llama, Llama, Misses Mama by Dewdney (2009).** It's Llama Llama's first day of preschool! And Llama Llama's mama makes sure he's ready. They meet the teachers. See the other children. Look at all the books and games. But then it's time for Mama to leave. And suddenly Llama Llama isn't so excited anymore. Will Mama Llama come back?

**Professional Books:**

**Anytime Reading Readiness: Fun and Easy Family Activities That Prepare Your Child to Read by Miller (2010)**
Practical, easy-to-use strategies to help parents get children ready to read without the stress!

**Before They Read: Teaching Language and Literacy Development through Conversations, Interactive Read-alouds, and Listening Games by Miller (2009)**
The basis for this book is that strong oral language skills must be in place before children can learn to read. The author helps educators teach these skills with engaging games and activities based on great conversations, good listening skills, and interactive read alouds.
Literacy Beginnings: A Prekindergarten Handbook by Pinnell and Fountas (2011) The major tools for learning in the prekindergarten classroom, language and play, are the most important tools for early literacy learning. With their Continuum of Literacy Learning they provide detailed descriptions of language and literacy behaviors and understandings for teachers to notice, teach, and support.

Creative Resources for the Early Childhood Classroom: 5th Edition by Herr (2009) This is a theme based curriculum with 70 different themes. But I purchased it for the teacher made materials and activities.

Additional Books shown:

An Egg is Quiet by D Aston; A Butterfly is Patient by D Aston
I Spy Spectacular by W Wick
Wave by S Lee = wordless picture book

Specialty Books by Capstone Press
My First book of Vietnamese Words by K Kudela
Math around us Counting in the City by T Steffora

A great non-fiction book for older more mature children - A Boy Named FDR by K Krull

A great funny read for the adult sense of humor- Once upon a time, the End (asleep in 60 seconds) by G Kloske – don’t think preschool children will understand the humor but adults would love it because we have all been there. A great companion book is new this year—and this one would be okay for children—won the Caldecot Honor by David Ezra Stein called Interrupting Chicken

Great interactive book for reading with one or two children – Press Here by H Tullet
Technology:

Digital Storytelling- by Kristin Larsson Little Rock School District and Ms Larsson’s Pre-K class

Free download of Photo Story 3
http://download.cnet.com/Photo-Story-3-for-Windows/3000-12511_4-10339154.html

1. Install the program on your computer. You may purchase a more advanced version for $19.99.
2. Click “Begin a new story.”
3. Click “Import Pictures” and then choose pictures for your story.
4. More information on our website: http://ecep.uark.edu

Scanners and digital cameras can make this so easy.
Magic Wand scanner $99 – needs AA batteries and SD card