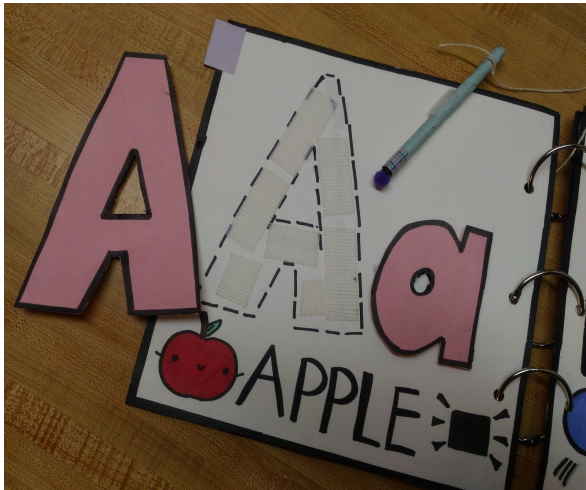


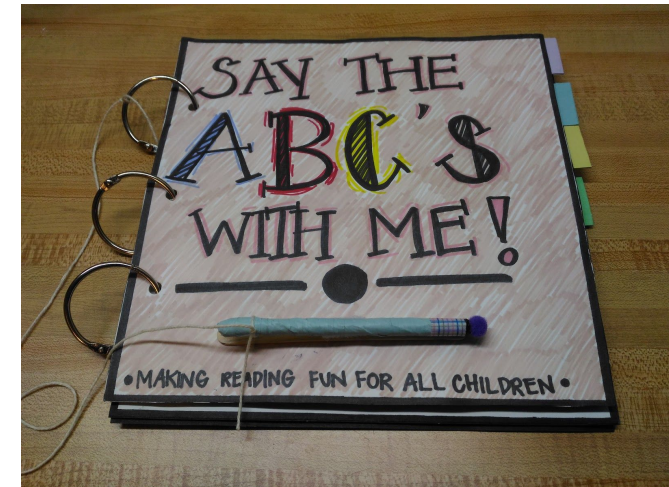
"Solution to Learning Success"?

- ❖ It reflects an **inclusive** approach.
- ❖ Provides the opportunity for children with special needs to be **actively engaged** with early literacy materials.
- ❖ A tool that can be used to **facilitate exploration** and interest in early literacy and play a role in **cognitive development**.
- ❖ Accommodations in the book can assist in a variety of special needs and therefore, create a **healthy, positive learning experience**.
- ❖ **Sensory Integration** is a major component within this book series.



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Early Literacy: Interactive Book Series



Created by:
Briana Rempel, Patrysha Miranda, Jasmine Phung, Carmela Hornilla and Mara Lumanta

Rationale

Children in language and symbol-rich environments begin to develop literate profiles as soon as they engage with their surrounding images and texts (Kilewer, 2008). From then on, all children require **frequent opportunities with language** to promote early literacy development and later achievements in literacy and language (Fleury, 2015).

Without these opportunities and evident physical barriers, children with severe speech and physical impairments (SSPI) may not develop these necessary skills, thus potentially interfering with the child's potential to obtain age-level skills (Hetzroni & Schanin, 2002).

Many children with disabilities commonly experience challenges with learning emergent literacy skills (Green, Terry, & Gallagher, 2014).

Early literacy skills, especially for children with autism, promote self-expression and set a foundation for future independent living.

Children with autism may have difficulty developing early literacy skills due to issues with attention span, word decoding, phonemic awareness and lack of motivation. As a result, this requires specific and deliberate literacy programs that allow children to participate from emergent literacy to academic literacy with various instructional strategies (Akcin, 2013).

The ability for a child to understand **letter sounds and patterns** is the foundation for their success in early literacy development. In an early literacy program there are five skills presented that effectively prepare the child for reading. These skills include *listening, print conventions, phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, and serial processing* (Bruns & Pierce, 2007). Another strategy that develops early literacy skills is by *reading aloud*. This promotes language skills such as vocabulary and comprehension, teaches print conventions including book familiarity, text features, and text concepts (Bland, 2013).

Ideal books for children with disabilities include features such as heavy cardboard pages, durable metal rings binding the pages, pages with only one image of focus and few words, raised line drawings, and pieces affixed to the pages using velcro for a 3-D experience (Lewis & Tolla, 2003).

Tactile experience books offer learning opportunities to children with visual impairments and allow them to practice turning pages, orienting books, exploring objects, and experiencing joy of independent reading (Lewis & Tolla, 2003).



What is Our Product?

We have created a book series targeted to children with various special needs.

The **purpose** of our product is to introduce basic learning concepts in the form of early literacy. Each book in the series is created with a variety of accommodations that cater to different special needs.

Some of these books accommodate to the needs of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy and many more!

This product is also accessible to anyone looking for an inclusive, engaging and stimulating way to introduce books, reading and early literacy to children (i.e educators and parents).

Accommodations included in each book of the series:

- ❖ Page fluffers.
- ❖ Textured pages and page tabs.
- ❖ Interactive pieces that can be removed and reapplied.
- ❖ Contrasting colours.
- ❖ A sound pad for pronunciation of words.
- ❖ Thick pen base to trace and practice writing new words.

Other books included in our series:

- ❖ "Count the Numbers with Me!"
- ❖ "Search for the Animals with Me!"
- ❖ "Discover Shapes with Me!"
- ❖ "Spot the Colours with Me!"

Benefits

Benefits of this book series includes:

- ❖ **Accessible** to children interested in literacy.
- ❖ **Accommodating** features provides a **sense of independence** for those with special needs, by active interaction with these books
- ❖ Introduces many learning concepts that can be a **foundation in building early literacy skills**.
- ❖ Provides an **interactive** component for children to be actively engaged.
- ❖ Accessible to educators and typically developing/developmentally delayed children.

Challenges

Challenges of this book series may include:

- ❖ Overstimulation due to the book's multiple accommodations.
 - ❖ Although this product provides an inclusive approach, there may be other special needs that are not accommodated.
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