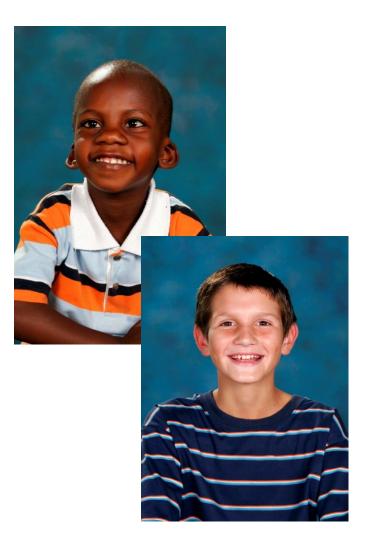
## Should toddlers with severe disabilities read and write

Compile a literacy toolkit – fun ideas

Danita Nel Pathways-Pretoria



### Stories of Hope







## Literacy in essence? What are we preparing for?

- It is a quest for meaning
- Many rich literacy experiences
- Literacy does not happen in a brief period of time
- Literacy advances education and improves quality life.



### When are Children Ready?

- Many rich literacy experiences
- Literacy does **not** happen in a brief period of time
- Literacy advances education and improves quality life.
- Not at a specific age- reading, is a gradual process



### When are Children Ready?

- Reading readiness? Does it mean reading out loud and independently.
- 'Know-how' about all aspects of literacy. (Katz, 1989)
- Abstract symbols such as Bliss at an age of 18 months

#### When are Children Ready?

 Montessori program starts book reading reading from 12 months

Much more and earlier when children have a pre-disposition

• "Beginner" is important

### RESULTS: 6 months



#### 10 Literacy beliefs @Pathways:

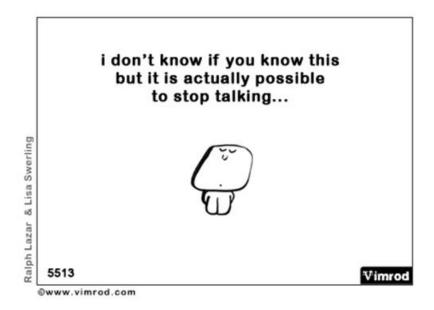
- All things are possible!
- Pre-literacy in EVERY activity. EMERGE
- Rather too MUCH than too LITTLE
- Merge EVERY method
- NO PRE-REQUISITES
- Use ALL senses and gestures



# 10 Literacy beliefs @Pathways:

- USE what you've got. Don't say I don't have....
- Teach with FUN and FUNCTION
- Children learn by DOING
- We TEACH and TALK too much.







#### **Expanding ideas**

A child needs more than 1000 hours of pre-

literacy training

- Book reading
- Incidental learning
- Language rich environments
- Read a variety



# 10 Literacy beliefs @Pathways:

- Alternative pencils
- Songs, chants, rhymes, stories
- Scribbling and "driting"
- Group writing
- Different writing materials







#### A "Toolbox" for Literacy

- 91 activities
- Different surfaces
- Different writing material
- Different letters
- Different writing material
- Different writing experiences
- ABC games
- Environmental print



### A literacy fun room!

- ISAAC 2006, the "Reggio Amellio" approach
- Different areas
- 26 stations
- Choose , play, create
- Assignments



### Rural communities

Kids4 kids project

Pack and create

Train caregivers to understand the range of

skills





### A whole stimulation programme "toolboxed"

