Strategy: Using Books to Pre-Teach and Highlight

I brought the story The Three Little Pigs along with props and puppets, to demonstrate a story re-tell activity that targeted narrative skills and sequencing in a large-group, pre-kindergarten, setting.

I read the story first, then the kids took turns holding the houses (and letting them be blown down) and using the puppets to re-tell all the parts of the story. Everyone got involved; even the reluctant communicators wanted a turn with a puppet. The ‘audience members’ helped the wolf to blow down the houses. With each re-telling, more kids were able to join in with the words. Once, when the wolf couldn’t blow the brick house down, I wondered, “What’s going to happen if the wolf climbs down the chimney into the pot of boiling water?” One of the kids answered, “Wolf soup!” This was so much fun, we had to talk about what else would be good in wolf soup. The kids thought carrots, potatoes, noodles, and more creative things would all be yummy.

Later that day I joined some kids at the water table, which was full of containers and interesting objects. One of the girls started using her containers to make wolf soup. It was great to see some of the ideas and words we’d talked about in the large group come out in her creative play.

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