

This book features families sharing hot pot, a Taiwanese meal, for dinner. The simple story structure lends itself to pausing and writing down what children say are their own food preferences and experiences.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

COMMUNICATE



Children will:

- ◆ Observe how the words they speak are translated into print

Teachers will:

- ◆ Take dictation
- ◆ Label and narrate your writing

TEACHING TIP

Writing down what children say is a powerful tool for sparking interest in the mechanics of writing. Even before they fully understand the different rules of print, by incorporating dictation throughout your days, you reinforce that writing can show ideas. Having books or signs that feature interesting print can capture children’s interest in text and inspire them to incorporate certain elements into their own attempts at writing. As children observe print from you and their environment, they’ll try it out on their own through scribbles and letter-like forms that will one day become words and sentences.

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “This book is called (*point to each word as you read the title*) *Hot Pot Night!* This meal looks yummy. We’re going to write down food that we think is yummy too as we read this story together.” *Have something to write on and a writing utensil ready.*

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause occasionally to ask children questions related to the story and dictate their answers.
- ◆ Label or narrate your writing as you dictate.

Take Dictation

Read: “What’s for dinner?”

Ask: “What did you eat for dinner last night? What about for breakfast? I heard (Child) say broccoli. I’m going to write that here on my list of meals.”

Label: “Here, I wrote the meals we ate. I’m going to write ‘Meals’ at the top so we know what this list is about.”

Read: “She brought the meat. He grew the greens.”

Ask: “Which of the ingredients here do you like to eat? I will write them down in another list.”

Narrate: “(*As you write*) I’m going to add ‘corn,’ ‘tomato,’ and ‘mushroom’ to this list.”

Read: “Hot pot, hot pot, tasty hot pot!”

Ask: “What food do you think is really tasty? What are your favorite things to eat? I am going to write here, ‘(Child) loves to eat apples.’”

Label: “(*Point as you label*) Here I wrote your name, and then after that I wrote ‘favorite food is chicken.’”

3. REVIEW

- ◆ “Look at these long lists I wrote about your favorite foods and the meals we like to eat. We can write things down when we want to show our thoughts.”

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Any time is a good time to take dictation! You can show children how you take notes during lesson planning, you can write down children’s solution to a problem, or add captions to children’s drawings. If children are choosing where to play that day, write down what they each say. You can show the process of writing down their plan, and then reference the same list when asking them about their day later. The process of dictation can be added anywhere in your day that will be relevant and engaging to children.