Everyday Literacy Activities
What is this CELL self-guided module?

The purpose of this self-guided module is to share information about:

- The definition of everyday literacy activities
- How to identify everyday literacy activities
- How everyday literacy activities provide opportunities for learning
- How to increase the breadth and depth of learning opportunities
Pause and think about everyday literacy activities before you proceed

- What are everyday literacy activities?
- Why are everyday literacy activities important to a child’s literacy learning?
- What are some examples of everyday literacy activities?

Proceed through the self-guided module with your responses in mind.
What are everyday literacy activities?

- Everyday literacy activities refer to events that occur daily in homes, classrooms, and other locations that provide opportunities for early literacy learning.

- They should be interest-based, happen frequently, and provide opportunities for language learning and the acquisition and use of literacy abilities.
What are everyday literacy activities?

• Everyday literacy activities can be either formal or informal.

• **Formal literacy activities**, also referred to as structured activities, tend to be more adult-directed and tend to occur in more planned learning situations.

• **Informal literacy activities**, also referred to as unstructured activities, tend to be more child-directed and tend to occur within daily routines (such as dressing, eating meals, etc).
Why are everyday literacy activities important to a child’s literacy learning?

- Everyday literacy activities are important to a child’s literacy learning because they provide opportunities throughout the day for a child to practice and become competent in early literacy abilities.

- They are easy to use because they are incorporated into daily activities and routines. These provide opportunities for early literacy learning more informally at home and in the community as well as more formally in the classroom setting.
What are some examples of everyday literacy activities?

Examples of everyday literacy activities include driving in the car, making grocery lists, doing the dishes, ordering food at a restaurant, taking a walk, changing clothes, and saying hello and goodbye.
Introduction:

What are everyday literacy activities?

Everyday literacy activities need to:

- Be interest-based
- Provide opportunities for language and literacy learning
- Provide opportunities to acquire and use literacy abilities
- Happen frequently (or could happen frequently)
Illustration:
Examples of Everyday Literacy Activities

• Interest-based:
  *A child who loves birds will enjoy drawing, writing, talking and reading about birds*

• Opportunities for language learning:
  *Conversation with peers and adults during everyday activities, such as talking about the birds seen during a walk outside*

• Opportunities to practice literacy skills
  *Some examples include reading and writing: reading a book about birds, finding bird-related items in a catalog*
Introduction:
Everyday Literacy Activity Continuum

Everyday literacy activities can be informal or formal, or anywhere in between, depending on the context in which the activity occurs.

Informal Literacy Activities                     Formal Literacy Activities
Illustration:

**Informal** Literacy Activities

- Unstructured activities
- Primarily directed by child, with adult being a facilitator (i.e., less adult-directed)
- Tend to occur within daily routines than in planned learning situations (for example, car rides, grocery stores, diapering, dressing)
- Occur in the context of literacy-rich environments
Illustration:

**Formal** Literacy Activities

- Structured activities
- Tend to be more adult-directed
- Tend to occur in more planned learning situations
- Can occur when an adult organizes or leads a child in a learning activity with a specific goal of enhancing literacy development
- Occur in the context of literacy-rich environments
Illustration:
Tools for Identifying Everyday Literacy Activities

*Early Childhood Classroom Interests Tool*

- Tool to help teachers identify interest-based early literacy activities for the children in their classroom.
- This tool can be accessed from the CELL website at: [www.earlyliteracylearning.org](http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org).
Practice:

Everyday Literacy Learning Activities

Think about the children in your classroom or that you know well and complete the *Early Childhood Classroom Interests Tool*
Evaluation:

Everyday Literacy Activities

• What activities were your children interested in?

• Were there any new interests revealed? What are they?

• What activities surprised you as being literacy-based?
Reflection:
Everyday Literacy Activities

Complete the
Everyday Literacy Learning Activity Checklist
Introduction:

Learning Opportunities

• Everyday literacy activities provide opportunities for early literacy learning at home, in classrooms, and in a child’s community.

• Opportunities for early literacy learning need to be provided frequently.

• Opportunities for early literacy learning should be increased both across (breadth) and within (depth) literacy activities.
Illustration: Breadth and Depth

• **Breadth**—Provide a wide range of activities.
  
  *In other words, focus on one interest and provide a wide range of activities based on that interest.*

• **Depth**—Spend time engaging in the activity.
  
  *Explore and expand on the child’s interest.*

  Depth is about opportunities within an interest-based activity.

  *In other words, find opportunities within a specific interest-based activity.*
Illustration: Breadth and Depth

- **Breadth**—Provide a wide range of activities based on child interest

  *For example, if a child is interested in trains, make available books and songs about trains.*

- **Depth**—Spend time engaging in the activity. Explore and expand on the child’s interest using many approaches.

  *For example, when a child is playing with trains, ask questions about where the train is going; add people or traffic signs.*
Illustration:
Tools for Increasing Breadth and Depth of Everyday Literacy Activities and Learning Opportunities

- Tool to assist practitioners to plan for and remember literacy learning opportunities and activities they want to do with children
  - Daily Schedule
  - Reminder Tool

- These tools are designed to help teachers increase opportunities for literacy learning both across (breadth) and within (depth) literacy activities
## Daily Schedule

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### Early Literacy Learning Activities for My Child

**Remember to do the following:**

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 
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8. 
9. 
10. 

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Child's Name ______________________  Parent's Name ______________________  Date ______________________
Practice:
Learning Opportunities

Choose a child interest and describe activities that you would incorporate to expand the learning experiences to create breadth and depth. Include some literacy specific activities.

Here are some ideas:

• Drums or other musical instruments
• Pretend play cooking
• Building with blocks
• Bugs
• Trucks
Evaluation:
Learning Opportunities

- Were the activities:
  - Part of the child’s everyday life experiences?
  - Interest-Based literacy learning opportunities?
  - Likely to help the child practice emerging literacy abilities and develop new ones? What were the literacy activities?
- Could the everyday literacy activities:
  - Happen often?
  - Allow the child to try to use language in different ways?
  - Allow the child to experience and use literacy in different ways?
- Could you increase the breadth and depth of the activities even more?
Reflection:
Everyday Literacy Learning Opportunities

Complete the *Increasing Everyday Child Learning Opportunities Checklist*
Thank You!

• Thank you for accessing this CELL self-guided learning module!

• Remember, you can access other CELL self-guided modules on the CELL website at www.earlyliteracylearning.org