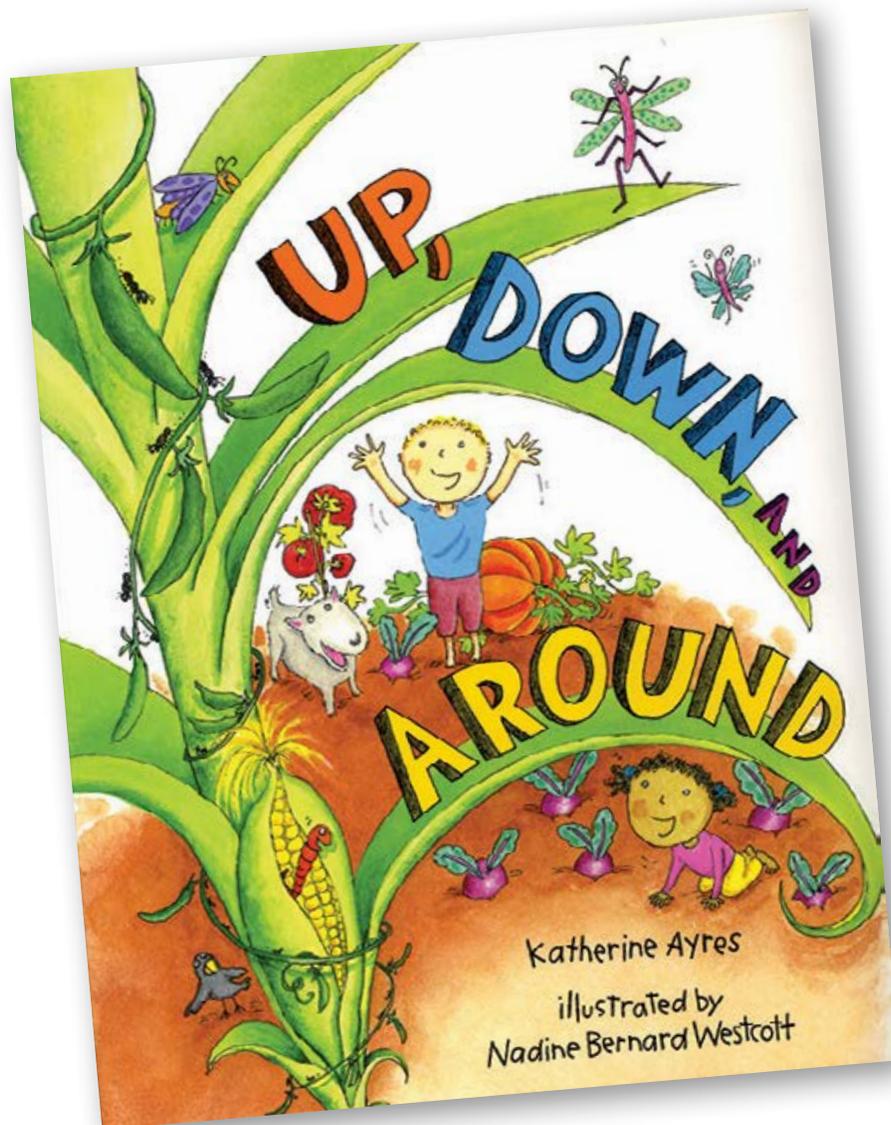


Family Book Adventures with...



Family Book Adventures

Up, Down, and Around, by Katherine Ayres

Packet Contents

10 Introduction and Planning Pages



1 Certificate



1 Invitation



1 Reminder Card



2 Take-Home Pages



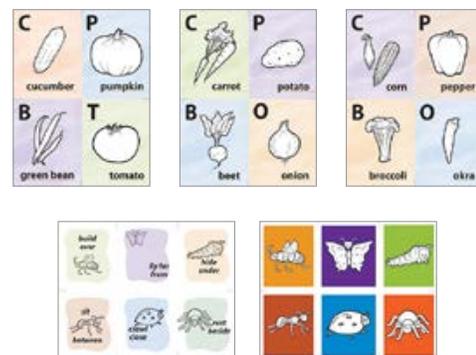
5 Table Tents



9 Activity Pages



2 Card Sets

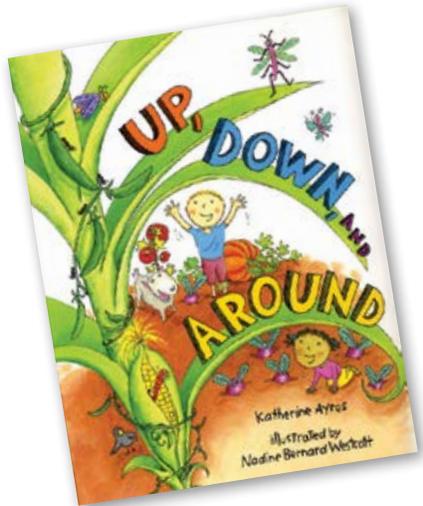


4-Page Activity Guide



Family Book Adventures

Up, Down, and Around, by Katherine Ayres



A special time for adults and children ages 2-8 to sing, talk, read, write and play together.

Introduction



Thank you for taking time to learn more about Book Adventures for Families! The activities that follow can be shared with families as a 1-2 hour interactive family night. The activities are outlined for three different age groups of children: three activity stations to support preschool/kindergarten literacy skill building, an exploration table especially for toddlers, and extension activities that offer primary grade children the chance to dig a little deeper into the subject). Please keep in mind that you know your families best, and can adapt all activities, age suggestions, and groups to provide a successful and fun experience for those who attend.

The purpose of these family night activities are to **educate families about the importance of early literacy**. Partnering with families in this way can increase the positive impact on children's pre-reading skills. The activities included in this resource focus on five research-based practices emphasized by the **Every Child Ready to Read@your library® 2nd Edition** initiative: **Singing, Talking, Reading, Writing, and Playing**. This event provides a perfect opportunity for partnership between early childhood programs and local libraries. Early childhood programs are encouraged to reach out to their local libraries, who may have additional resources and materials related to *Up, Down, and Around* and would welcome the opportunity to collaborate and share.

Through these activities, families have fun together while building a foundation for early literacy. The "why" behind the "what" of each activity is outlined so that caregivers can see the important role they play in the education of the children in their lives. Caregivers not only engage in fun activities-they learn how to maximize pre-reading skills through simple strategies they can continue at home.

How you structure your event is up to you. One format you might choose is as follows:



Facilitator Resources

Preparation and Planning Tips

A Message for Facilitators

SETTING THE STAGE: Introduce the featured book, *Up, Down, and Around*, written by Katherine Ayres, and illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott. *Up, Down, and Around* is a non-fiction book that uses a catchy rhyme to show how a variety of vegetables grow in the garden. The book follows the process from planting, to growing, to tasting. Katherine Ayres lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and *Up, Down, and Around* was featured in 2008 as the **Pennsylvania One Book, Every Young Child** selection. Share with families that the evening will include reading this wonderful book together, followed by some activity stations related to the story. Talking points are provided, if interested, to help families dig a little deeper into their upcoming fun and educational adventure. Copies of *Up, Down, and Around* for each participating family, along with companion labels that provide literacy tips and activities, are available to you at no cost while supplies last. To find out more, email ra-edcruise2k@pa.gov.

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS: Read the book together, and then provide the opportunity for families to travel and explore various activity stations that relate to the book and support early literacy development. A printable table tent with instructions, as well as learning connections, is provided for each station.

TRANSFER TO HOME: As a wrap-up, gather your group together once more for a closing activity. Take-home activity sheets are provided so that families can extend their learning at home.

PREPARATION AND PLANNING TIPS:

To help save time, included in this resource are:

- Preparation and Planning Tips for Facilitators
- Sample Event Invitation/RSVP and Reminders
- Sample Completion Certificate

Depending on the time frame of the event, you could also pair the event with a light meal or refreshments to encourage participation and relaxed networking among families.

These activity suggestions are here as a guide. Feel free to add creative ideas to make it your own and meet the needs and interests of your participants.

Enjoy, and happy reading!



Facilitator Resources

Preparation and Planning Tips

Setting the Stage: Talking Points

As you welcome families to this special event, consider including these talking points from everychildreadytoread.org to help set the stage:

- It is wonderful to see the families in the room making time to enjoy a literacy event together. Families are truly a child's first and most important teacher. They may not realize it, but they are an essential partner in their child's education.
- Research shows that when the adults in a child's life nurture early literacy skills at home, there is a major, positive impact on that child's reading success.
- Simple yet research-based practices, such as talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing support and enhance children's language and literacy skills.
- Tonight, we are going to go on a book adventure together. We are going to read a wonderful book together, called *Up, Down, and Around*, written by Katherine Ayres and illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott. After reading, we are going to have some time to explore some activity stations connected to the book.
- Each activity station has a table tent nearby that provides instructions for the activity. In addition, the tent provides some neat facts about how, as adults, our interactions with children during each of these fun activities can build specific early literacy skills!
- The cool thing about these strategies is that they can be practiced anywhere. We have some materials here that are part of each activity station, but all you really need to continue practicing these strategies at home is the knowledge we hope you will gain as you learn and play together this evening.





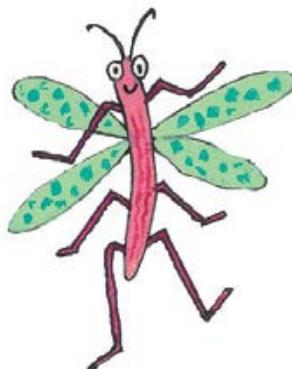
Facilitator Resources

Preparation and Planning Tips

The Adventure Begins: Reading the Book Together

To support interactive reading, pass out copies of the book to each family, if they are available, and point out the label on the inside of the cover. Interactive, or "shared" reading between adults and children is the most important activity to help children become stronger readers. Invite families to follow along using their copies of the book as you read the story aloud. Reassure families that it is ok if younger children skip ahead, or want to stay on a page a little longer. Young toddlers may chew on or bat the pages of the book. That is the beginning of print awareness and book handling. Before reading, prompt readers to think about what this book might be about by investigating the cover. What details do they notice on the cover? Share that this story is non-fiction, which means that it presents facts about a topic. Incorporate the group's observations when you share that this book talks about different plants in a garden and how they grow.

If time allows, use the chart you prepared ahead of time to talk about the three vegetables featured. Ask children to share their predictions whether each of these vegetables grows up, down, or around, and write their predictions on the chart. Share with families that when adults encourage children to make predictions, it prompts children to use information from a text or picture, plus their own personal experiences, to anticipate what they are about to read or what comes next. This strategy also helps readers make connections between their prior knowledge and the text. Because the rhyming text of this story follows a pattern, adults can pause during the story and ask children what they think will happen next.





Facilitator Resources

Preparation and Planning Tips

Activity Stations

Briefly explain the stations (three for the preschool/kindergarten age group, as well as an exploration table for toddlers and extension activities that allow primary grade children to dig a little deeper into the subject) and assign families a starting point. Rotate about every 15-20 minutes, depending on the size of your group. Families with both older and younger children may need some support as they select and visit stations.

Stations for preschool/kindergarten children

1. Building with Bugs
2. From Planting to Plate
3. Guess the Groceries

Exploration table for younger children

- Exploring Books
- Time for a Stretch
- Digging for Sounds

Extensions for older children

Children who are in primary grades may have a desire to dig a little deeper into the subject of how things grow. To best meet their interests and needs, you may want to consider having these extension activities available:

- Dig into a Book
- Budding Poets
- Guided Website Exploration



Facilitator Resources

Preparation and Planning Tips

Transfer to Home

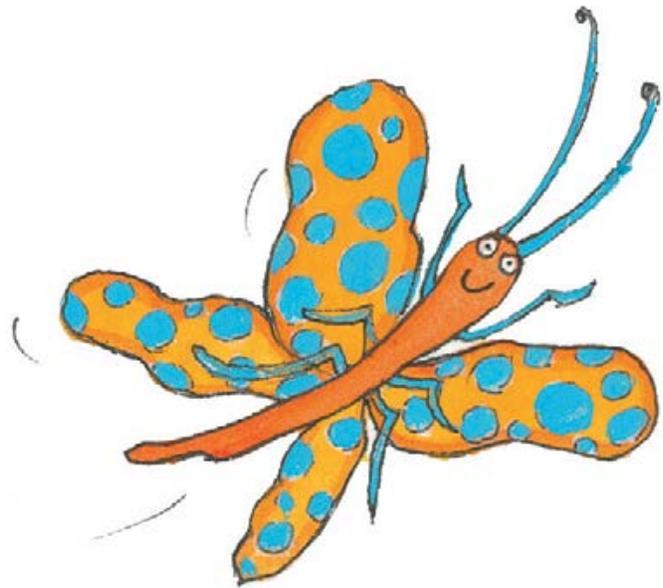
Gather families back together to talk about their experience. What station was their favorite? Were any activities more challenging than expected? How did families adapt to help their child succeed? Did anyone learn a new fact that surprised them?

Together, select a finger play (examples included) or another short story about planting, growing, or gardening to read or recite together. If you use a finger play, display the words and/or pictures on flipchart paper so that it is easy to follow along. Share with families that this helps children with print awareness, or realizing that print has meaning.

During the activity station rotation, participants will be asked to write down their guesses about what vegetables are in the mystery bags. Don't forget to share the answers during this time!

In closing, use the questions at the top of the take home sheet to guide families as they reflect on the evening's activities. Provide each family with copies of the take home activity sheets for extending learning.

Finally, thank families for taking time to do this important (and fun!) work together, and provide each with a certificate for participating.





Facilitator Resources

Preparation and Planning Tips

Materials to Purchase, Make, or Gather: Setting the Stage

- Create sign in sheet and make/gather name tags for attendees
- Order or locate book: *Up, Down, and Around* by Katherine Ayres, illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott. Copies of *Up, Down, and Around* for each participating family, along with companion labels that provide tips and activities, are available to you at no cost while supplies last. To find out more, email ra-edcruise2k@pa.gov. When books arrive, place companion labels inside cover.
- Create a large chart using markers and flip chart paper or poster board. The chart will be used to make predictions prior to reading the story. Include photos if space allows. Example:

VEGETABLE	GROWS UP	GROWS DOWN	GROWS AROUND
CORN			
POTATOES			
GREEN BEANS			

- Print introductory talking points (included), if desired
- Create 5 table tents for three preschool/kindergarten activity stations, one toddler exploration table and one for primary grade extensions.
 - **Hint:** To create table tents, print the sheets included that list the name of the activity, how to play, and what is learned through play. Fold each sheet as you would a tri-fold brochure. Open the sections and staple or tape the middle so that the tent stands up. Example:





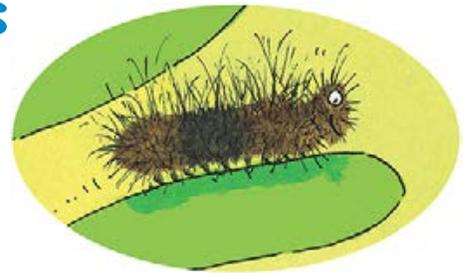
Facilitator Resources

Preparation and Planning Tips

The Adventure Begins

Activity 1: Building with Bugs

- Print one set (on cardstock and laminated is a plus but not required) of Building with Bugs Instruction Cards and one set of Bug Cards (included)
 - If available, you can use small plastic toy bugs instead of the bug cards
- Purchase or gather a small bin of building blocks, such as Legos or wooden blocks.



Activity 2: From Planting to Plate

- Print one set of Planting to Plate Sequencing Cards, included (laminated on cardstock if possible but not necessary)
- Print What's in your soup? Coloring page and Recipe Cards (enough for each participant to have one of each)
- Purchase or gather:
 - Crayons/Markers/Colored pencils/Pencils





Facilitator Resources

Preparation and Planning Tips



Activity 3: Guess the Groceries

- Three brown bags (or any bag that is not clear and is able to close tightly) and can be numbered 1, 2, and 3.
- Print enough copies of *Guess the Groceries Answer Sheet* (included) so that there is one for each participant
- Purchase or gather:
 - 3 different vegetables (Note: It is helpful to indicate to participants if they are in the book or different ahead of time.)
 - Crayons/Markers/Colored pencils

EXPLORATION TABLE FOR TODDLERS:

- Gather 3-4 additional children's books about planting, growing, or gardening (board books preferred but not necessary), such as *Eat Your Colors* by Amanda Miller or *Lunch* by Denise Fleming.
- A low bin of garden soil (this could be real soil, or another sensory item to simulate soil, such as brown paper shredding, rice, etc.)
- One set of printed *Veggie Cards*, included (laminated on cardstock if possible but not necessary)

EXTENSION FOR CHILDREN IN PRIMARY GRADES:

- Computer or iPad/tablet with internet connection, if available
- Copies of website instruction and *Create-a-Poem* sheets (included)
- Early readers related to oceans, aquatic life, etc., such as *The Vegetables We Eat*, by Gail Gibbons, or, *Our Community Garden*, by Barbara Pollak.
- Paper and pencils or pens
- A copy of the book *Up, Down, and Around*

TRANSFER TO HOME:

- Print certificates for each family
- Write selected finger play (samples included) on flipchart paper that can be posted on day of event.
- Print copies of Take Home Handout 1: Continue Learning at Home!
- Print copies of Take Home Handout 2: Family Fun Guide for *Up, Down and Around*

**If available, extra copies of the sheet "What's in your Soup?" as well as Create-a-Poem sheets may be prepared and sent home with those who might not have had the opportunity to complete during the event.





Facilitator Resources

Preparation and Planning Tips

Timeline Checklist

SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT

- _____ Read over all details within this resource. Many of the paper materials needed have been provided for you.
- _____ Select date and location for your Family Night. Consider a location that has enough space for multiple activity stations. This event provides a perfect opportunity for partnership between early childhood programs and local libraries. Early childhood programs are encouraged to reach out to their local libraries, who may have additional resources and materials related to *Up, Down, and Around* and would welcome the opportunity to collaborate and share.
- _____ Order copies of the book/books if needed and/or desired. Copies of *Up, Down, and Around* for each participating family, along with companion labels that provide tips and activities, are available to you at no cost while supplies last. To find out more, email ra-edcruise2k@pa.gov.
- _____ Plan menu if providing a meal or refreshments.

ONE MONTH BEFORE THE EVENT

- _____ Send home invitation with RSVP advertising your Family Night. (Sample provided).
- _____ Begin to purchase/make/gather materials. (List included).
- _____ Solicit volunteers for the evening, if needed.

ONE WEEK BEFORE THE EVENT

- _____ Tally RSVPs received and send reminder invitations or emails if needed.
- _____ Confirm meal/refreshments order if providing.
- _____ Review activity instructions and ensure all necessary materials have been purchased or prepared. For this event, a sample of fresh vegetables are used in Activity Station 3, so be sure to factor in time to purchase these a few days prior to, or the day of, your event.

DAY BEFORE THE EVENT

- _____ Send children home with a reminder badge. (Sample provided.)
- _____ Enjoy celebrating literacy with your families during your event.