Programming Technique  
CLIS 754: Dr. Feehan  
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POCKET SMOCK & OTHER STORYTIME APRONS

Intended Audience
- Ideal for lapsit programs, toddler times and preschool storytimes. I have also brought my smock on school visits for the younger grades.

Pocket Apron
- I bought an inexpensive pre-made apron at a craft store and decorated it with fabric paint.
- I have used this with a library lapsit program all the way up to first graders. It all depends on what you have in your pockets!
- Whenever I bring out my smock and put it on, I sing a little song before we start looking through the pockets. The kids catch on quick and usually join in.

  1 little, 2 little, 3 little pockets,
  4 little, 5 little, 6 little pockets,
  7 little, 8 little, no more pockets...
  in my Storytime Smock!

- There are so many different things you can use with this. It can be a lead-in to your theme or just be an activity in between books. The children have always loved it. Some ideas I have used are:
  
  ★ Poetry: Whenever I come across a little poem, I type it up or cut it out, laminate it and keep it for my apron.
★ Old MacDonald: this is my all-time favorite. I’ll put little animals, either small toys or laminated pictures, in my pockets and pull them out for each verse of the song.

★ Theme Items: If you are a theme person, this is great. For instance, if you are doing a “zoo” storytime, you can have a bunch of animals etc in the pockets. Pulling them out one at a time, the kids will discover what the books for the day will be about.

★ Jokes & Riddles: Great to use with preschoolers and older. Knock-knock jokes are always a hit!

★ Holiday items: Include pictures or things having to do with an upcoming holiday and the children can guess what it is.

★ Colors & Shapes: See how smart they are by pulling out these. Great to do along with a concept book.

★ Hats: Cut out or draw some different hats (police, firefighter, chef etc) and see whether the kids recognize who would wear it. Good for a hat themed storytime.

★ Book Characters: I have used this many times. The kids love seeing their favorite storybook characters coming out of the pockets. I printed out color pictures from the web and laminated them.

These are just some of the ideas I have come up with. What is great about this is that you can keep adding to it now that the smock is made. I find many ideas and pictures to use in children’s magazines.

- I have attached some patterns and poems that I have collected to use with a pocket apron.

**Flannel Apron**

- I purchased an inexpensive craft apron and some felt that was a similar color. I sewed the felt on and voila! You can use felt pieces with it or Velcro works pretty well. I
usually either make the story pieces out of felt or laminated paper with an adhesive Velcro sticker on the back.
- This also can be used for all ages especially the preschoolers.
- Any flannel story you have created can be used on this apron instead of a flannel board.
- I have attached a pattern to create your own storytelling apron along with some ideas to use with it.

**Magnet Apron**

- This *seemed* like a great idea??!!! I purchased a black apron and painted on some magnetic paint. Many of the rhymes and stories I had previously made were for a magnet board that I had at the library and thought I would make a wearable one. I’m not sure whether this is a success yet or not... The magnet story pieces stick well enough if I don’t move around quickly or bend down at all. I’m hoping I can improve on this one in the future! For now, I’m just adding some more magnets to my stories to make them hold a bit better.

- Many of the flannel apron ideas can be easily turned into magnetic pieces for this.
Some Useful Resources


I think this would be great to use with a pocket apron...
A variation could be: changing the last two lines to "It's a ...."
and pull out an object to go with a story you are going to tell or read.

POCKETS
Eve Merriam

After you have recited or read Eve Merriam's poem from Blackberry Ink several times, you might wish to present it visually. On the last line pull out your pocket and show a hole, or exhibit the pile of objects mentioned in the poem.

Something's in my pocket,
What do you think?
It's nothing that goes down
The kitchen sink.

It isn't a penny,
It isn't a nail,
It isn't a cookie
That's nice and stale.

It isn't a whistle,
It isn't a stamp,
It isn't a toad
That's nice and damp.

It isn't an eraser
Or a ticket stub,
It isn't a piece
Of pocket flub.

It isn't a ring
Or string
Or a stone,
It isn't a bead
Or a weed
Or a bone.

I won't give it to you—
Get a hole of your own.