

Creative Adventures with Literature

#11: *It's Picture Day Today!* By Megan McDonald, illustrated by Katherine Tillotson

Introduction	<p>Teachers often struggle to find ways to involve children in creating three-dimensional art. This book, <i>It's Picture Day Today!</i> by Megan McDonald, illustrated by Katherine Tillotson, provides the springboard for lots of three-dimensional art. In addition, the book shows how odds and ins and throw-aways can become art.</p>
Story Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the book several times. Practice reading it aloud so that you can help children understand the role of the unusual characters in the story; characters such as buttons and yarn. • Collect items such as those featured in the book so that children will have an opportunity to create three-dimensional art.
Story Presentation	<p>Benchmarks: 3.1 Shows enjoyment of books and stories and discussion of them 5.3 Expands vocabulary 5.9 Uses language to problem solve</p> <p>Book: <i>It's Picture Day Today!</i> by Megan McDonald, illustrated by Katherine Tillotson</p> <p>First Reading of <i>It's Picture Day Today!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show cover of book and invite children to name the objects they see. • Read the title and give the author and illustrator. • Invite children to predict what they think the story is about. • Show the title page, call attention to the button and school bus, and ask children to describe what they think is happening. • Begin to read the story, making sure that all children can see the illustrations. Allow children to make comments about what they see. • Ask children if their predictions about what the story is about were correct. Why or why not? • Follow up by showing the pages and invite children to name the items they see. • Ask children why they think glue is needed in the story. Accept all answers. <hr/> <p>Second Reading of <i>It's Picture Day Today!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show the cover, give title, author and illustrator. • Invite children to look at the items on the cover and recall what happens to those items in the story. • Read the story, making sure all children can see the illustrations. • Follow up by showing the pages as each item is introduced and invite children to discuss their experiences with the different items. <p>Additional Benchmark: 5.8 Participates in group discussion</p> <hr/> <p>Third Reading of <i>It's Picture Day Today!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect as many of the items in the story as possible. Store them in a container. • Take container to book reading area. Remove glue bottle and keep it out of sight of children. • Show the items one at a time and invite children to identify and discuss them. Then ask, "Who's missing?" (Glue) Add glue to the container. • Explain that the items will be placed in the art center for children to use in their

	<p>own creative way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show the cover and invite children to recall the title. • Read the story, pausing before the last word in some sentences. Run your hand under the word. For example, read “Here come _____ (Buttons) “followed by _____ (Feathers), “Look! See _____ (String)?” • Follow up by showing the four pages with the three-dimensional structures and invite children to name the individual items they see. Encourage them to discuss the structures and comment about what they think the different structures are. • Remind children that items like the ones in the story will be placed in the art center so they can create their own structures. <p>Additional Benchmark: 3.5 Understands that print conveys a message</p>
<p>Creative Art Extensions</p>	<p>Benchmarks: 2.10 Explores and manipulates art media 2.12 Preplans art project and then works with care 4.6 Coordinates eye and hand movement to complete tasks</p> <p>Activity: Creating Three-Dimensional Art</p> <p>Materials: items featured in the book, <i>It’s Picture Day Today!</i> and storage container</p> <p>Directions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place storage container with collected items in art center. • Allow children to create their own three-dimensional art. <p>Teacher Note: <i>Leave the items in the art center as long as children remain interested in them. Add additional items and allow children to add items if they are safe and are throw-aways.</i></p> <p>Extension Activity: Writing a Story about My Creation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite children who are interested to dictate a story about their creation. • Record their story on a large index card. • Invite each child to sign his/her name to his/her story. Explain that they are now the author and the illustrator of their story. • Involve individual children in reading their story with you. <p>Additional Benchmarks: 3.5 Understands that print conveys a message 3.6 Demonstrates an interest in using writing for a purpose</p> <p>Extension Activity: Three-dimensional Art Gallery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a space in the classroom for display of children’s creations. • Label it Our Art Gallery. • Invite children to display their art along with their stories in the gallery. • Suggest to children that they invite their families to view the structures in the art gallery.
<p>Creative Drama and Dramatic Play Extensions</p>	<p>Benchmark: 2.1 Shows creativity and imagination in play with materials and props</p> <p>Activity: Create a Centerpiece</p> <p>Materials: items in art center for creating three-dimensional art, pictures of tables with centerpieces, especially those that use unusual materials such as those in the book, <i>It’s Picture Day Today!</i></p>

	<p>Directions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show the pictures to the children and invite them to identify the items in the centerpiece. • Suggest that they may want to create a centerpiece for the dramatic play center or for their table at home. <p>Teacher Note: Consider adding items from nature such as pine cones, shells, smooth rocks or colorful leaves to use for making three-dimensional center pieces.</p> <p>Teacher Note: Be aware that buttons can be a choking hazard and know your children before you add them to your collage collection.</p>
<p>Additional Books</p>	<p><i>1,2 Buckle My Shoe</i> by Anna Grossnickle Hines <i>The Button Box</i> by Margarett S. Reid, illustrated by Sarah Chamberlain <i>Lucy's Picture</i> by Nicola Moon, illustrated by Alex Ayliffe</p>
<p>Additional "It's Picture Day Today!" Ideas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be willing to provide three things for children's three-dimensional art: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environment: Space to create ○ Time: Allow the activity to take place over several days or as long as needed by children ○ Space: Provide space to display children's art • Keep a supply of items for three-dimensional art in the art center at all times. • Create a sign or a hand-out to go home to families identifying the benchmarks that children are achieving as they create three-dimensional art. Give families a list of items they might collect at home for their children's creations. • Involve families in collecting items to bring to the center. • Brainstorm with coworkers additional items to add to the collection: cardboard core from paper towel rolls, lace, ribbon, small boxes, nature items, Styrofoam pieces and clean food containers such as yogurt/pudding cups and juice/milk containers.