

STORYBOOK CAMP

AUGUST 11, 2010

Dear Storybook Campers,

I bet you all go fast to sleep tonight.

you worked so hard with Bill

Let me put those two short ideas together with the connector word BECAUSE:

I bet you all go fast to sleep tonight BECAUSE you worked so hard with Bill.

We worked more on our **connector words** today. They connect ideas together just like you can hook legos together. Connector words are especially important to use when you are hooking together **the kick off, feeling and plan**. Treva felt scared and angry BECAUSE the trolls were stealing her dog, SO she made a **plan** to trick them!

The **connector words** we used were: AND, SO, WHEN, THEN, IF, SO, BECAUSE, BUT. (There are many more but these are some of the first ones children develop.)

The sentences we used for combining were:

I want an ice cream cone.

Mom says, "Yes".

Mom says, "No"

Mom says, "Maybe"

I eat my dinner

It is time for dinner

I eat an ice cream cone.

I ask my Mom.

You should say please.(Included at Joe Fitz's request:)

There were rebus (picture) type symbols above many of the words because most of the campers aren't reading yet. So if you try it with them, put in some picture prompts. Jack is really reading words, Joe K. I was glad to hear a strong loud voice when you were reading, and Caleigh, you did a terrific job at reading sentences for the first time. You said some very loooonnggg sentences and you were easy to understand. Joe Fitz you kept your brain with the group until your brain just filled

up with too many words. It was good that you told me that...smart thinking about your brain.

We tried really hard to **remember** some characteristics of our friends at camp. **What do you know** about your friends because **you have seen them doing it**? You all remembered what your friend's favorite dress up costume was and then we thought about if you bought a present for that someone, what would it be? Not your favorite costume but theirs. Tell your parents about your friend's costumes. (This is an important thing for kids to start to do. In Michelle Garcia Winner's it is making a '**friend's file**' in your brain. We access this information so we know what to talk to friends about...not just our favorite topics but theirs too. Or when they come over to play we offer them some options that we remember they like.)

Bill our physical trainer was here again today and you all played crazy cracking the spinning egg open. You set in the scooped green seat that looks like half of an egg shell and then you would spin around and try to not let Bill crack your shell and spill you out BECAUSE then he wanted to cook you...scrambled or fried! Finally you figured out a plan to work together to stop him. You caught him in the hoop and covered him with the blanket and pillows. Everyone really enjoyed this game and participated fully. Joe K was especially clever at not getting cracked and Joe Fitz you thought of good ideas to stop Bill. You also pretended you were frogs and did a lot of jumping and walking on thin strips to not fall in the water. We had to eat a lot of snacks and drink some juice after Bill left! (After this very vigorous activity of about 30-40 min, both on Monday and today, I noted that both Joes were significantly better focused during and after the activity and that their spoken language was more lengthy and connected to what was going on.)

We worked a little bit on our troll worksheets. (Anything in the kids folders you can work on but do not have to...save it for after camp:)

William our movie maker was here and filmed you acting out, Bob and Maria Make Summer Plans" (These are from Delasandro's We Can Make It Better) In the first version of the story Bob doesn't think very much about Maria's feelings. What did he say to her when she suggested, "We could plant a garden!" ? What about when she wanted to go swimming with him? Then we decided to do a "**We Can Make It Better**" version of the story. Remember, Bob can make it better and still get to do what he wants, he doesn't have to just say, "Yes" to Maria's suggestions. He could say, "I don't want to make a whole garden but I could help you for one hour." He could say, "I'm already going swimming with a bunch of friends, would you like to come with us?"

The last thing we played at was musical clothes. You LOVE your costumes so much that sometimes I think you forget that one thing that is more important than your costume is how you are playing with your friends. It is being a good friend when you share costume pieces even if what you have is the best or your favorite. To make a friend you might need to share your costume piece for a little bit...and boy oh boy, were you good at sharing your costume pieces ...and you looked so great being half a knight/half an astronaut/ half a fancy lady!

Good Night Knights, Ladies and Astronauts!