Creating a Print-Rich Environment in Your Classroom

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Goal:
The goal of this workshop is to provide elementary teachers with information on what it means to have a print-rich environment, as well as different tools and resources that they can use in their own rooms.
Agenda

I. What is a “print-rich” environment?
II. Activity 1
III. Why do I want to have one in my classroom?
IV. Activity 2
V. Survey
I. What is a “print-rich” environment?

A print-rich environment is any environment in which, “children interact with many forms of print, including signs, labeled centers, wall stories, word displays, labeled murals, bulletin boards, charts, poems, and other printed materials” (Kadlic and Lesiak, 2003).
Markers of a Print-Rich Classroom

- Lots of books at many different levels (different genres, topics, etc.)
- Student and teacher made posters
- Engaging physical environment
- Accessible literacy materials
- Content related text
- Usable materials
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Activity 1: Using the checklists provided, determine the top five artifacts you believe are most important to a print-rich environment.
II. Why do I want to have one in my classroom?

Creating a print-rich environment in your classroom allows students to strengthen the connection between what they already know about print and what they are learning. It serves as a continuation of functional literacy when students actively participate with the tools given.

“Children perceive and develop literacy through exposure to its functional and meaningful uses in their daily contexts” (Tao & Robinson, 2005).
Activity 2:
In small groups, use the materials provided to create a lesson or activity that you could use in your classroom.
Resources:


