Early Literacy Storytime Kits

Each kit should include:
- 7 picture books
- 1 art activity book
- 1 song/finger-play book
- A felt story set
- A puppet

You will find two documents for each kit template

1. Book Labels

- **Book Labels (for AVERY 5960 labels)**

To be printed on sticky labels and placed on the bottom left hand corner on the cover of each book. This is very helpful when items are separated from their box

2. SKIT Document

Once you download the SKIT doc, enable editing to personalize your table of contents.

- **Table of Contents – Full Page**

To be printed and organized into a binder. This is a nice way to browse themes and content for both patrons and staff.

- **Table of Contents-Half Page**

To be printed, laminated, and taped inside the lid of each storytime kit box. Of great use when boxes are returned and staff is checking the contents.

- **Box Label**

To be printed, laminated, and attached to the outside of storytime kit box.

- **Felt Story Instructions**

If you're feeling crafty, there are patterns for creating your own story pieces. If you feel like shopping, there are links to online stores to purchase story time sets.

BOOKS

- 7 picture books
- 1 fingerplay/song book
- 1 art activity book

My ultimate goal for choosing books is to stick to the theme, while covering as many bases as possible. The monster kit may have seven picture books about monsters, but they aren't all about a monster under the bed who just wants to be friends.

The Feelings kit covers jealousy, fear, annoyance, as well as all the mushy-good feelings. I didn't want seven books that breeze over happy/sad, friendly/mad in rhyming couplets. When I get stuck, I try to find an alphabet book on the theme I'm working with (there is an ABC picture book on almost every single subject you can think of).

Try searching for books that are related to your theme, even if they aren't a perfect match. A book about birds can go in the Tree kit because birds live in trees, and a little book of manners is perfect for the Potty Training kit.

Where to find picture books:
- Your donations: A number of our kits were built around picture books donated by our patrons.
- Your collection: If you have multiple titles on the floor, maybe one can be removed from circulation and added to a new kit.
- Used book stores/thrift stores
- http://www.goodreads.com/genres/picture-books
- http://www.cbcbooks.org/
- http://www.amazon.com/Childrens-Books/

FELT STORIES: If you're feeling crafty

Make story pieces using interfacing!
1.Trace   2.Color   3.Heat   4.Cut

Step 1: *Gather Your Supplies*
1. Light weight, non-fusible interfacing, available at fabric and hobby store. Choose the heaviest interfacing that you can still see through, since you'll be tracing your art. The fuzzier the backing, the better it will stick to your felt board.
2. Art, your own or someone else's for which you have authorization to use
3. Sharp scissors
4. Permanent and/or fabric markers
5. Clothes drier or iron, depending on what the instructions for your fabric markers
6. Access to a copy machine or printer for clip art

Step 2: *Copy Your Art*
Select some art from a book or computer clip art. Choose simple illustrations, avoiding anything with lots of thin parts sticking out unless you're not planning on cutting around those parts. You can also draw your own design on some paper. Do not trace directly on a book, as interfacing is thin and the ink will go right through. Copy or print your image on paper, then trace.

Coloring Page Resources:
http://www.dltk-kids.com/type/felt_board.htm
http://www.coloring.ws/
http://coloringpages101.com/
http://color-your-own.com/index.html
http://www.thecolouringpages.com

Step 3: *Trace Your Art*
Using a thin marker or crayon (permanent or fabric), trace your art onto the interfacing.

Step 4: *Color Your Pieces*
Using markers or crayons (again, permanent or fabric), color in your feltboard piece. Think about how it will look from a few feet away rather than up close.

Step 5: *Set the Colors*
Most fabric markers give you an iron option and a drier option.

Step 6: *Cut Out Your Pieces*
Cut away the extra interfacing. Pieces will stay flatter if the edges are round rather than cut in tiny detail with lots of parts sticking out.

Step 7: *Tell your Story*
You're finished! Note how many pieces belong with your story and store in a large sealable bag (use a hole punch in the bottom corner for safety)

http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Make-Easy-Felt-BoardFlannel-Board-Pieces/

FELT STORIES: If you're feeling SUPER crafty

Some tips on making your own felt stories:

Supplies:

Essentials:
-Craft felt, a variety of colors, 9"x 12" pieces
-Tacky glue or any flexible glue.
-Scissors

Optional extras:
-Acrylic paint
-Puff paint
-Fabric markers
-thread and sewing needle
-Google eyes
-Ribbon, yarn, ric-rac, and other embellishments

Choosing a story:
Parts of the story will be lost in the translation to felt. Picture books that have sweeping landscapes and intricate detail are not good choices. Simple is better.

Size:
No piece should be bigger than 8.5" x 11" Any piece that has to be folded to fit into the box is more likely to be wadded up and shoved back in, thus requiring constant repair.

Scale:
Try and keep things relevant within each story (i.e. the dog should be smaller than the horse, unless it's a miniature horse and a giant dog, of course). I like the pieces to look like they belong together, and keeping them close to scale is an easy way to do this.

Layers:
All the pieces should have a solid background. For example: Don't just glue the felt hat onto the felt head, glue them both to a felt background. Whether you cut the background to the exact shape of the piece or leave a border is up to you.

Consistency:
I like to use the same color background on all the pieces in a story. If you use ric-rac for hair on one character, do that for all of the characters. Give every character the same eyes. All google eyes, all black dots, all white felt with painted pupils, etc...I think it's important to have some sort of connection between the individual pieces. Keep the color palettes consistent. Of course using the original illustrations as your guide is always a great place to start.

Felt vs. Fabric:
The fancier you get the more repairs you'll have to make down the road. Using different types of fabric and embellishments can really make your piece pop, but there is such a thing as too many pom-poms. I've found that the pieces made with only felt hold up much better.

Painting:
Tiny pieces of felt tend to disintegrate, so a lot of the time it's easier to paint the details onto the felt. Eyes, buttons, hair, shoelaces, etc... It's also an easy solution when you've run out of a color. Just cut the shape out of white felt and paint away! You can use acrylic paint or puff paint.

Maintenance:
Keep a lint roller handy for cat and dog hair removal. Also, a bottle of tacky glue for pieces that may need some attention after being well-loved.

Patterns:
Make patterns from clip art or simple illustrations by printing out the image, cutting it out and taping the shape to your piece of felt. Stencils and cookie cutters are also very handy. Pencil works on lighter colors, or a white colored pencil for darker colored felt.

Felt pieces inspired by Tops & Bottoms, by Janet Stevens

Felt pieces inspired by Mis Colores, Mi Mundo, by Maya Gonzalez

FELT STORIES: If you feel like shopping

Some links where you can purchase felt story kits:

Little Folk Visuals
http://www.littlefolkvisuals.com/

Story Time Felts & More
https://www.storytimefeltsandmore.com/shop/felt-figures/figures-to-tell.html

Kaplanco
http://www.kaplanco.com/

<u>PUPPETS</u>

If you're feeling crafty…

Here is a template for a simple felt puppet for you to make! Add ears, eyes, clothes, etc.. for any character you may need.
http://www.eduplace.com/hac/arts/puppets.html

Or…you can purchase blank canvas hand puppets to paint and embellish.
http://www.discountschoolsupply.com/Product/ProductDetail.aspx?product=21864

Felt Finger puppets are easy to make and a fun interactive tool for storytelling.
http://brightappleblossom.blogspot.com/2010/12/felt-finger-puppets.html

If you feel like shopping…

Folkmanis Puppets
http://www.folkmanis.com

I LOVE Folkmanis! The quality, durability, and adorableness has yet to matched.
They offer great discounts if you obtain a wholesale license. Every holiday season we sell puppet and picture book bundles.

Melissa & Doug
http://www.melissaanddoug.com/puppets-and-theaters

Magic Cabin
http://www.magiccabin.com/puppets-and-theaters/puppets-and-theaters.htm

BOX

The Story Time Kit Boxes can be ordered from DEMCO.
- Demco Record Storage Box with Attached lid, Item #WS14202800)
- **Table of Contents-Half Page**

To be printed, laminated, and taped inside the lid of each storytime kit box. Of great use when boxes are returned and staff is checking the contents.

- **Box Label**

To be printed, laminated, and attached to the outside of storytime kit box.

Colored duct tape on the edges and hinge help the boxes keep their strength and look nice. Glue a pocket on one end and stick the bar code above. The other end should have the title of the kit displayed in an eye catching way. A laminated copy of the table of contents goes inside the lid.

FELT BOARD

You can include a large piece of felt (25"x 24" or larger) for patrons to use at home. It can be draped over a chair, back of the couch, lay flat on a table, etc...

Another option is to purchase large felt boards to be checked out separately.
Little Folks Visuals offers mounted and un-mounted backgrounds.

Water & Sky Mounted Background, $19.95, from Little Folks Visuals
http://www.littlefolkvisuals.com/index.php?page=shop.product_details&flypage=flypage-ask.tpl&product_id=121&category_id=28&option=com_virtuemart&Itemid=84

Water & Sky Un-mounted Background, $9.95, from Little Folks Visuals
http://www.littlefolkvisuals.com/index.php?page=shop.product_details&flypage=flypage-ask.tpl&product_id=123&category_id=28&option=com_virtuemart&Itemid=84

www.eldoradolibrary.org