

Answering Questions – Handout

Ms. Mary created a checklist that listed the types of “wh” questions (who, what, when, where, why, how many) she planned to ask the children after reading stories. She assigned a code to each of the stories that she planned to read that week. Because Ms. Mary needed to focus on reading and asking questions during story time, she asked her teaching assistant to note the types of questions children answered correctly and the book to which the question referred (using the letter assigned to the story from the list below).

- A code is entered into the checklist whenever a child answers a question correctly about a story (e.g., Anna answered a “What” question correctly about *La oruga muy hambrienta*, story F, and *Two of Everything: A Chinese Folktale*, story G).
- For “How many” questions, the number identified is listed in the box.
- If a child gives an incorrect response, an “X” is put over the code.

Code	Story
A.	<i>Oso pardo, oso pardo, ¿qué ves ahí?</i> (<i>Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?</i> ; Martin, Bill; translated by Mlawer, Teresa, 2002)
B.	<i>Over On The Farm: A Counting Picture Book Rhyme</i> (Gunson, Christopher, 1995)
C.	<i>Fall Is Here! I Love It!</i> (Good, Elaine W., 1990)
D.	<i>Snow Comes To the Farm</i> (Tripp, Nathaniel, 2001)
E.	<i>Spring Thaw</i> (Schnur, Steven, 2000)
F.	<i>La oruga muy hambrienta</i> (<i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i> ; Eric Carle, 1994)
G.	<i>Two of Everything: A Chinese Folktale</i> (Hong, Lily Toy, 1993)
H.	<i>Picture Book of George Washington Carver</i> (Adler, David A., 1999)

Child	Who	What	When	Where	How	Why	How many
Anna		F, G, H,					4, 3, 8
Alisha		D, G, B	C,D,E		D,G		5, 7, 9
Ari		C, G, B					2,3
Jana	D	D,G,H					2,3
Jose	H	A,B,C,F,G	F		G		X 10,2,3
Manuel		B,D,G					1, 2
Sui		B, G					2
Tommy		B,B,D,G,					1, 2

The “what” question that everyone answered for *Two of Everything* involved making a connection to their own lives (“What would you put into the hole so that you would get two of them?”). Everyone answered something that they would put into the hole. Ms. Mary made a note of their responses on the back of the checklist sheet so that she would remember them later.

Here is an alternative version of an individual checklist that a home visitor might use, indicating the language of the response:

Jose	Who	What	When	Where	How	Why	How many
<i>Oso pardo, oso pardo, ¿qué ves ahí?</i>		E					
<i>Over On The Farm: A Counting Picture Book Rhyme</i>		S					5 10
<i>Fall Is Here! I Love It!</i>		S					
<i>Snow Comes To The Farm</i>							
<i>Spring Thaw</i>							
<i>La oruga muy hambrienta</i>		S					3
<i>Two of Everything: A Chinese Folktale</i>		E			S		2
<i>Picture Book of George Washington Carver</i>	E						