

Introduction

Children enjoy the creative stories and exciting characters found within children's picture books. Picture Book Learning was created to explore the educational opportunities that can be captured by connecting children's favorite stories and beloved characters with key language arts skills required in early elementary development. Because picture books offer such a variety of genres, rich language, colorful characters, and interesting storylines, they are the perfect tools to enhance a child's education. Combining the fun in picture books with the concepts taught in the elementary classroom makes Picture Book Learning an effective learning method.

I developed the concept of Picture Book Learning while teaching second grade and completing my Master's degree in Elementary Education. During this time, I created dozens of Picture Book Learning Skill Sheets that encompass a variety of important language arts skills. They were tested with many different picture books in my classroom and in the classrooms of fellow teachers. This book contains the first collection of my most successful Skill Sheets.

One of the finest aspects of the Skill Sheets is their versatility. They were originally designed to be used by teachers with students of varying levels of reading and language arts abilities. However, they have also proven to be very useful and valuable for parents looking to help their children outside of the classroom, children being home-schooled, families living abroad, and children learning English as a second language. Best of all, each Picture Book Learning Skill Sheet can be used repeatedly with different children's books. Utilizing the Skill Sheets with multiple books will provide variety, yet repetition, to ensure each concept is truly understood.

I hope that teachers, parents, and children reap the many benefits of Picture Book Learning. I would love to hear success stories and other great ideas based on this concept. Please contact me through my website www.picturebooklearning.com, where I will also share additional ideas, lesson extensions, and information on future publications. Enjoy exploring the fun and knowledge within picture books!

- Corinne Osborne