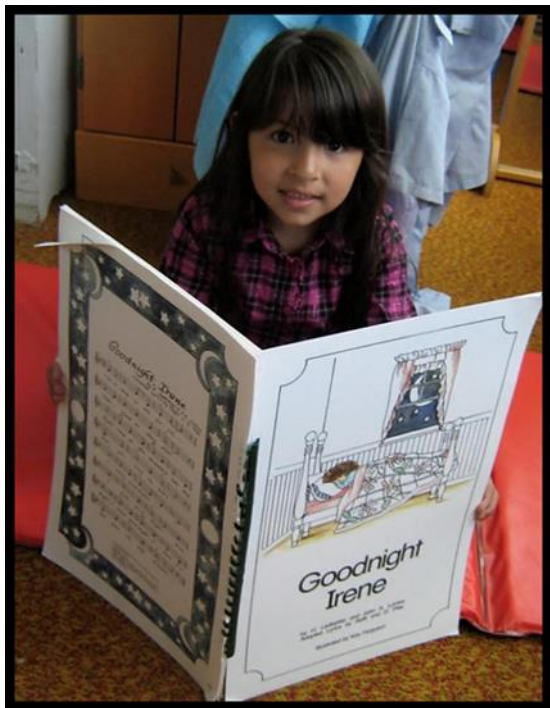



# Build A Love of Literacy Through Song Picture Books: Develop Oral Language and Reading Fluency Simultaneously



We begin the year sharing several Nellie Edge Read and Sing Big Books™ every morning. *I Can Read Colors, I Have a Cat, I Love the Mountains, Mary Wore Her Red Dress, The More We Get Together, Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, The Opposite Song, and Goodnight Irene* have become favorites. The accompanying "little books" and "guided reading books" are used for large group Shared Reading and are taken home for family literacy as a part of our Read and Sing Book Club. Children are soon able to move from "magical memory reading" with fluency and delight to reading with confidence and word-for-word accuracy. For many children, these song picture Big Books became their touchstone: An affirmation of "I can read!" That was the case with Amada who all year long read and sang ♪ *Irene Goodnight*... Her beautiful singing and love of the book often drew a circle of classmates around to join her.

 Song picture books are used for guided reading and they make up our first "Family Reading Book Club." We differentiate early literacy instruction by building oral language and reading fluency simultaneously and coaching families in how to support the learning-to-read process at home.

By November every child is eager to participate in The Read and Sing Book Club, taking a new book home every few days and reading with two different adults who initial the book club envelope cover. When the children return the books, they will choose new ones.



Book bin label and book club envelope cover available on *Writing* CD and on the Read & Sing tab at [nellieedge.com](http://nellieedge.com).