

# Images of Laura Flocker's Kindergarten



Candalaria Elementary  
Salem, Oregon  
September 2008  
Cadre Meeting

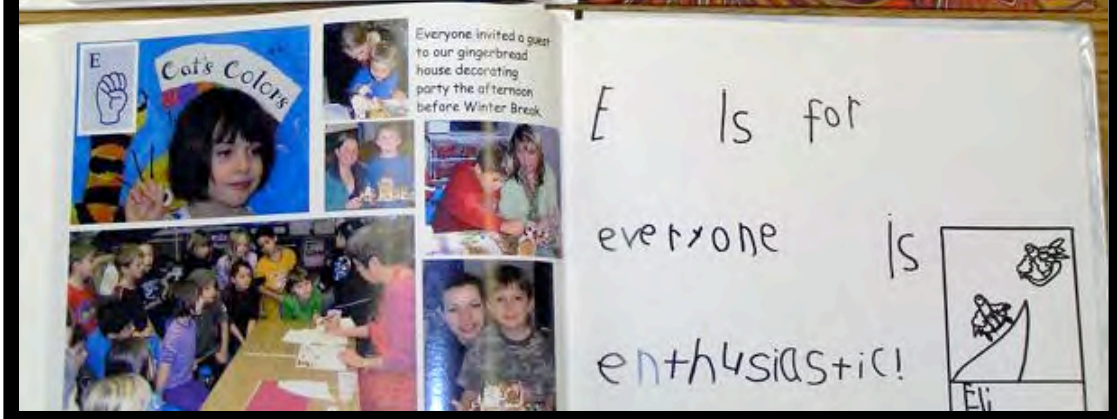
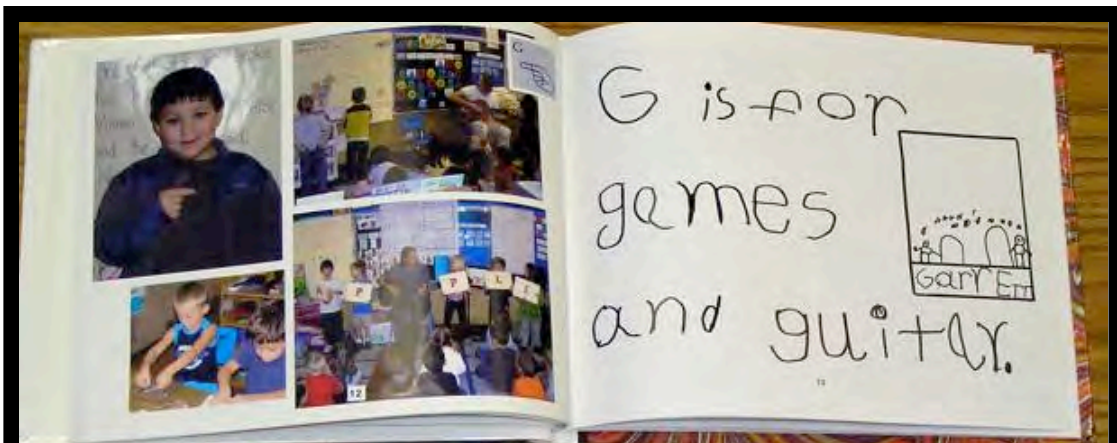
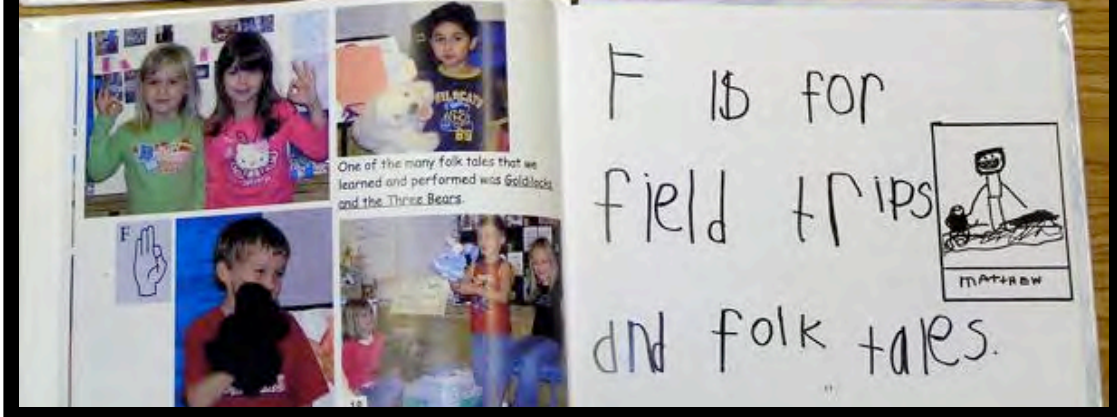
Art, literature, and science explorations provide the motivation for reading and writing.

Bugsy is one of the many animals that live in this happy classroom.



Children are responsible for animal care. The study of pets is part of the curriculum. And of course - they bring their pets to school.

# Children Create Their Own ABC and Sign Language Book





# Children Learn to See and Think Like an Artist

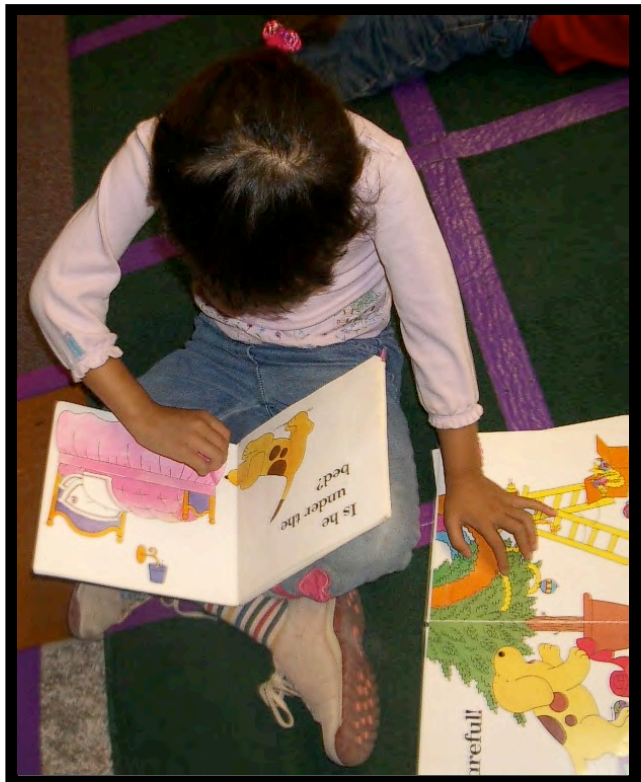


Each child creates and solves problems in his or her unique way.





# September 19, 2008 and Already Children are Building Reading Stamina





# Laura Flocker's Kindergarten Artists



The children all view themselves as artists - and so does their teacher...

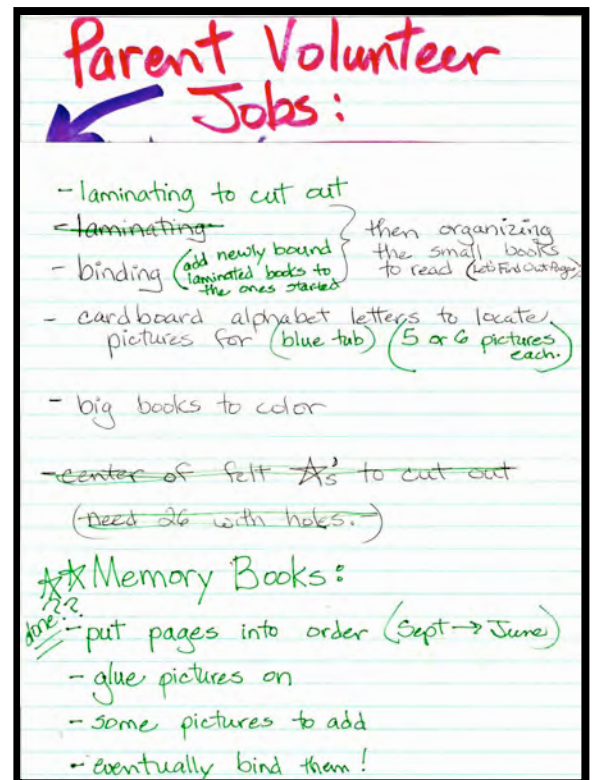


# Organization and Planning Makes it Easier for Parent Volunteers to Help with Class Projects



Laura Flocker has a great parent support team in her all-day kindergarten. She makes it easy for a parent to come in the classroom at any time, to work on a project or take something home to finish. Parent helpers color language charts and Big Books, assemble memory books, do laminating, binding, filing “I Can Read” pages into student notebooks, re-supply art materials and display student art work. They also listen to students read and help one-on-one with specific learner needs. In addition to having an amazing art, science, and literacy-rich kindergarten, Laura does several things to facilitate parent participation and support:

- **Parents know they are always welcome in the classroom.**
- **Many projects can be completed at home.** Directions are clear.
- **Laura posts a list of projects** needing to be completed on the parent volunteer shelf.
- **The supplies needed for projects are neatly labeled and available** on the shelf and in one handy set of pull-out storage drawers.
- **Parents know Laura’s schedule and learning goals:** A file folder contains specific information for working one-on-one with students needing extra support.
- **Laura’s gracious appreciation comes back to families** in the depth of experiences she is able to provide all of the children.



Laura’s June list of parent volunteers projects.

## Laura Flocker's Experience: Parents Love this Approach to the ABC's

Laura Flocker teaches an all-day "parent-requested and tuition-supported" kindergarten in Salem, Oregon. Laura is a legend in this school community, known for her incredible arts-rich program where science explorations, drawing and art experiences fill the day and friendly animals are a part of the life of the classroom. Parent participation and support for their child learning American Sign Language is very high. **They loved seeing their child's pride and enthusiasm for learning. Parents appreciated the playful, stress-free approach to learning phonics while the children were also learning a second language.** One parent whose daughter learned the whole *ABC Sign Language and Phonics Song* in one week told of how proudly her daughter performed the song for her cousins and neighbors – anyone who would listen. Her brother was jealous that he didn't get to learn the ABC's through sign and song!

Laura gave every parent a copy of *The ABC Sign Language and Phonics Song* book and CD.



Later the class published their own original book featuring the children as ABC experts. This was a real hit – "one of the best things I've done!" Now every family has a cherished bound book they can read together and delight in. It is a celebration of friends and a reminder of the child's success in learning how to read and write.

### To Publish Your Class Book Contact:

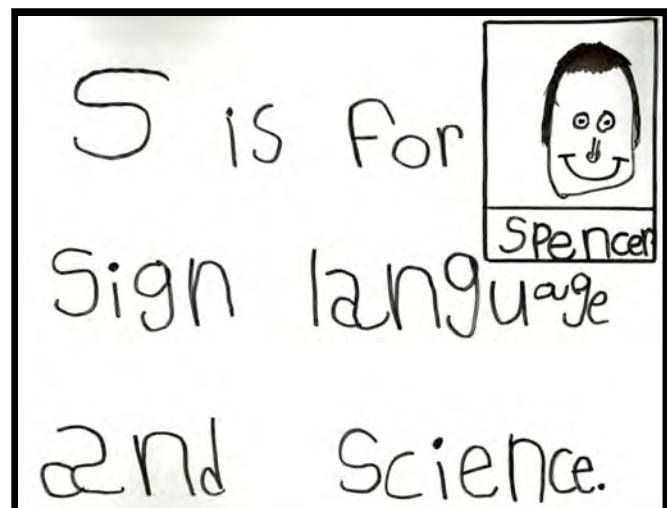
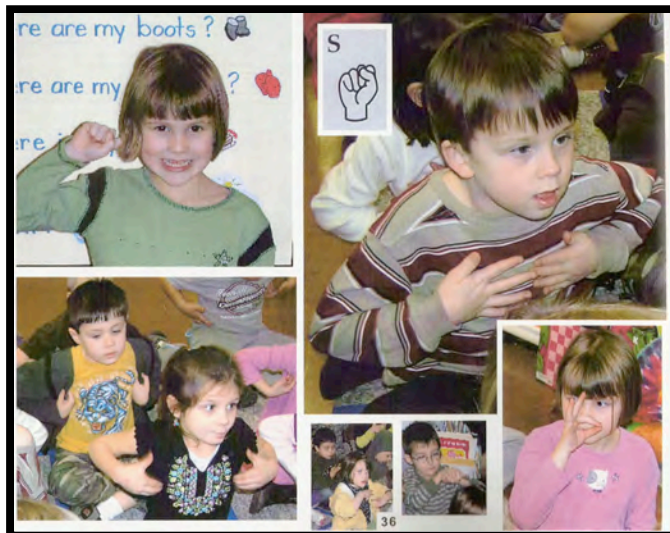
**Nationwide Learning, Inc.**

6700 South Topeka Blvd.

P.O. Box 19244, Topeka, KS 66619-0244

800-867-2292 (7:00am to 5:30pm CST weekdays)

Email: [info@nationwide.com](mailto:info@nationwide.com)



**We love this way of honoring children as authors, illustrators and experts at American Sign Language and phonics.** Teachers receive the class book kit and one copy of the bound book free. They schedule a publishing date. Books are published within 10 days of agreed upon publishing date. Cost per book is similar to the cost of quality hardback children's books – and they look and feel like real books. How fun is that?



# Drawing Instruction Supports Handwriting Skills in Kindergarten

Kindergarten and Reading Recovery® teacher, Laura Flocker, develops children’s ability to see and draw various shapes from the first day of school as a part of her amazing art-rich classroom. Inspired by Laura’s work and generous sharing, other kindergarten teachers have discovered that this is “**the missing link**” for some young children who have difficulties learning to form letters – they **need more explicit, systematic instruction in seeing and drawing like an artist**. Laura weaves drawing and guided art instruction into every part of the kindergarten experience from the first day of school. She offers the following loose progression and guidelines:

- **Begin teaching children about lines and shapes as they explore each new art media:** crayons, pencils, colored pencils, watercolors and markers. Use fat lines, thin lines, straight and curved lines, zigzags, horizontals and diagonals. Then explore making different sizes of circles and other basic shapes.

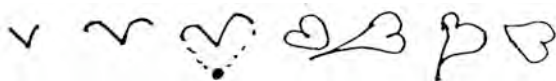


- **Teach children to sketch shapes** made from pattern blocks. (The concept of sketch is to draw lightly with pencil, and wait to erase. It’s okay to have several lines. Later you choose the best line.)

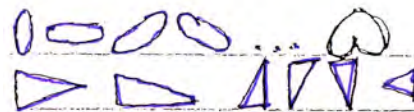


- **Explore lines and shapes in picture books.** Notice Eric Carle’s shapes are not perfectly symmetrical, they are more free form – or abstract.

- Learn to make a “**close to perfect shape**” and then explore “**free form**” drawing for fun and pleasure. Hearts – start with a V then curve it out on each side. Make a dot below the point of the V. If you want a fat heart, make the dot close; for a long heart, make it farther away. Free-form hearts are special, unique, each different.



- **Make shapes in different positions.**



- **Give children the artist’s vocabulary** – horizontal, diagonal, vertical, circle, oval, hexagon, realism, abstract, mural, zig-zag, slant, curve, symmetry, perspective, balance, shading, blending, etc.

From *Art, Literacy and the Kindergarten Child*, (book draft) by Laura Flocker and Nellie Edge. Currently, the book is only available as part of Laura Flocker’s training seminars.

Visit Laura’s awesome website for more information

<http://web.mac.com/lflocker/iWeb/Kinder%20All%20Day%2006%20-%2007/Welcome.html> or connect from [www.nellieedge.com](http://www.nellieedge.com) under “Other Favorite Sites”.