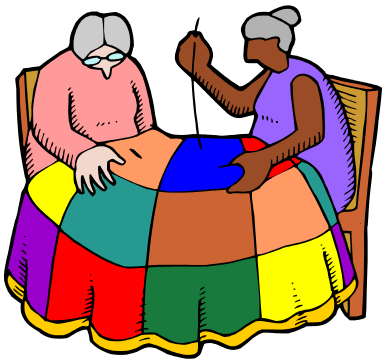
The ABC Quilting Bee.



Ellen C. Skidmore, NBCT, Disseminator

eskidmore@dadeschools.net

Gulfstream Elementary School

School Mail Code #2321

School Phone # 305-235-6811

School Fax # 305- 254-1721

For information concerning IMPACT II opportunities,

Adapter and Disseminator grants, please contact:

The Education Fund

305-892-5099, Ext. 18

E-mail: lvalle@educationfund.org

Web site: www.educationfund.org

Table of Contents:

Goals and Objectives…..……..1

Sunshine State Standards (Benchmarks)……3

Course Outline……5

Lesson Plan……..6

Sample Home Learning……..8

Resource List……9

Bibliography……10

ABC Quilting Bee Directions……...…11

Fabric Coordination……12

Supplies Needed……...……13

Freezer Paper……...14

Designing/finishing Quilt Square……...……15

Making and finishing the quilt……...16

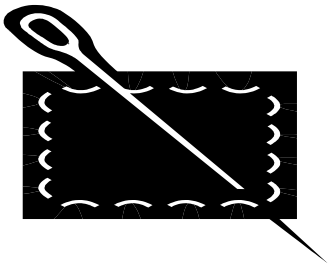
Goals and Objectives:

The ABC Quilting Bee is a project based upon a 2006-2007 Ed Fund Mini-Grant. It entails gathering the class together for a trip to the library to choose a variety of alphabet books. After reading the books together, the class votes on the book to be used for the class project. The book that is voted in becomes the basis for the ABC quilt.

Each letter of the alphabet is explored and researched by the class either through whole class instruction or small groups or as home learning pairing the student with their parents. A drawing to illustrate the letter is drafted and refined until a final product is decided upon. It is then transferred in pencil to a simple bleached muslin square. The design is outlined using a fine-line Sharpie® marker. It is then colored using common wax crayons. After removing the wax from the quilt block, it is applied to a simple quilt made by an adult.

Each block is displayed and reviewed by the class, thereby reinforcing both the letter and the item it illustrates. The class quilt may be displayed in the classroom or at the school Art Show. This allows the children to be "real artists." Being in the show enhanced class self-esteem.

The project is ideal for reinforcing Language Arts. It bonds the class together because the group chooses the book upon which the project is based. The letters of the alphabet are researched in a variety of ways. After choosing the book, "Eating Your Way Through the Alphabet." one class assigned each child a letter to research with his/her parent as a home assignment. The pair had to find a food to illustrate the letter assigned. The results were exciting. Exotic fruits and vegetables were illustrated, everything from apples to ugli fruit and zucchini were drawn onto quilt squares. A copy of the illustration from the book was included in the home learning packet in case the child could not find an appropriate illustration. The teacher also included the quilt square, a marker, and crayons so that locating the materials to work with would not be a struggle, as that was not the point of the assignment.



APPLICABLE BENCHMARKS

http://www.fldoe.org/bii/curriculum/sss/

The above website will allow you access to all the current Sunshine State Standards for grades Pre-K – 12.

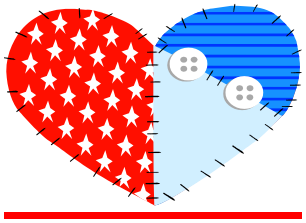
Reading: LA.A.A.1.1 – The student uses the reading process effectively.

The ABC Quilting Bee project uses the Sunshine State Standard for Reading of LA.A.1.1. that reads, "The student uses reading process effectively." The project focuses on part 2 that reads, "Identifies words and constructs meaning from text, illustrations, graphics, and charts using the strategies of phonics, word structures, and context clues." The class chooses a book to base the project on from all the alphabet books in the library. The book is read aloud and alone a multitude of times. The students, guided by the teacher determine what the story is about. The students are each assigned a letter to illustrate. The student must synthesize what he/she understood from text and translate that into a drawing to be added to the class quilt.

Reading: LA.E.2.2.2 – The student responds critically to fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama (Grades 3 – 5)

Standard 2 – Student identifies major theme in a story or work of nonfiction.

The ABC Quilting Bee project seeks to increase recognition of alphabet letters as well as increase knowledge of a theme – whatever theme the alphabet book chosen by the class has. In the successful implementation of this project, different classes of special education students produced seventeen quilts. Themes chosen by the classes included food abc books, bugs, Florida animals, butterflies, class rules, aquatic animals, and farm animals. As the project grew, different story quilts were added including quilts based on Charlotte's Web, The Big Red Barn, Lunch, The Accidental Zucchini, Jalapeno Bagel, Polar Bear Polar Bear, What do you Hear?, and others. The project can be adapted to any theme or idea that can be drawn on a muslin quilt square.



Course Outline and Overview

December – Receive Adapter Grant Check

January - Class trip to the library to choose an alphabet

Or theme book depending on how grant is adapted

February – Read book aloud a multitude of times

Determine what the theme of the story is

Determine what will be illustrated upon the quilt

Contact Art Teacher to inform them of desire to be in school art show that year.

Teacher /class determine colors for quilt and border

Teacher shops for supplies

March - Teacher or class parent sews the quilt

Class works on drafting block design/ finalizing idea

Student draws final design onto quilt block

Design is outlined in Sharpie® marker

Design is colored with crayon

Design is pressed to remove wax and sewn to quilt

April - Class quilt is displayed in Spring Art Show

Lesson Plans

ABC Quilting Bee – Book Chosen "Eating Your Way Through The Alphabet."

Objective: Recognize assigned letter and a food associated with the letter

L.1.2.2.2 – Identify major theme in a story

Grade: Pre-K – Kg., Regular education, Pre- K-5 (Disabled)

Materials: Book, easel, six inch muslin squares adhered to freezer paper, pencil, paper, ultra fine Sharpie ® marker, crayons, paper towels, iron, ironing pad, teacher made quilt

Procedure:

Set: Bring a bowl of fruits and vegetables to class and ask the children what their favorite is. Seek answers and see if they can name the letter the fruit or vegetable begins with.

Read the story aloud to the class. Ask children to brainstorm other fruits and vegetables beginning with a, b, c… and so forth. List the responses on the board. Randomly assign a letter to each.

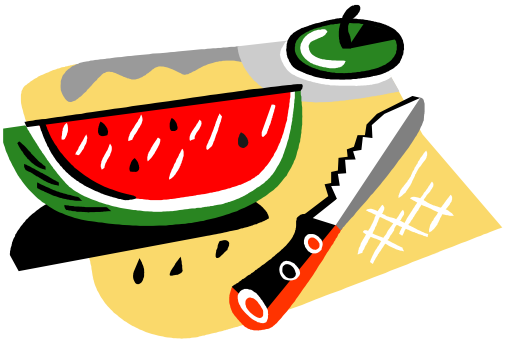
Begin draft of each drawing using 6" square paper, assist younger children with a design. The drafting of drawing, revising and transferring to fabric and coloring will take a number of days to weeks because there are 26 letters to cover.

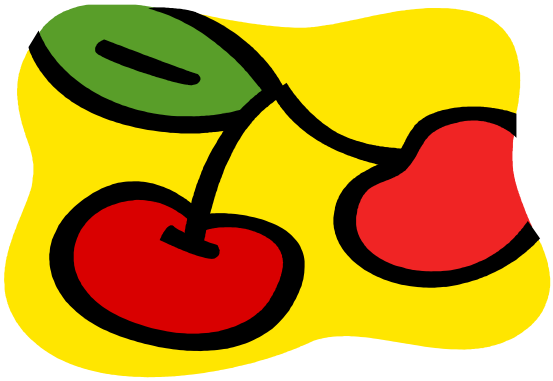
To assign as home learning:

Assemble a quilt block kit with everything the family needs to complete a quilt block. Each kit should include: instructions on how to draft design, crayons, fine line Sharpie® marker, 6" muslin square which has been ironed on to the shiny side of freezer paper. Freezer paper can be found in the section of the grocery store with foil and plastic wrap.

A copy of the page of the book illustrating each letter should be included to give students an idea how to begin. Each should be encouraged to make an original design if possible.

Assessment: Grades may be given for neatness (fine motor skills or writing), following directions, or accuracy of design when compared to the instructions.





Eating Your Way Through the Alphabet.
The Quilt Block Assignment
Sample instructions for home learning

Dear Students and Parents:

We read the above story in class over the last few days. As a culminating activity our class is going to make a quilt illustrating each letter of the alphabet. You need to research a food that starts with the letter that you have been given. Draw a picture of the fruit or vegetable onto a square of paper. Write the letter on the square as well.

When you have finished your drawing and are happy with it, draw it neatly onto your fabric square. The drawing goes onto the cloth. The paper backing is just there to make the fabric stiff while you color. Draw the fruit or vegetable in pencil. When you are done, trace over the pencil with the Sharpie® marker. Color the drawing with crayons and write the name of the fruit or vegetable and the letter you drew on the square. Place all the crayons and the square back into the baggie and return it to your teacher.

Resource List

Dr. Jeanne Bergeron, Children's Literature Class,

Dr. Bergeron first demonstrated this quilting technique to me in a graduate education course. She has also taught it at The Reading Institute through MDCPS and at the University of Miami in Miami, Florida as well as at various seminars nationwide.

Jo Ann Fabrics – Source for all quilting supplies needed such as muslin, pins, thread, batting, fabric, and quilting rulers. A majority of the grant will go to supplies for the quilt.

Publix Food Stores - Source of Freezer Paper and any supplies necessary for a reception at the school art show.

Public Library – Craft Books and Quilting Books for ideas

Bibliography

Books we made quilts of:

Polar Bear Polar Bear

Lunch

Icky Bug Book

The Big Red Barn

Florida Animals Coloring Book

Charlotte's Web

Jalapeno Bagel

The Accidental Zucchini

Eating Your Way Through the Alphabet

Directions for The ABC Quilting Bee

1. Select a book along with your class. We used Alphabet books at first and then it morphed

into storybooks of all kinds. Any idea or theme that can be drawn on a muslin square can be made into a quilt.

2. Determine what will be illustrated. ABC books require at least 26 blocks for the letters plus at least a few more in order to make symmetrical rows. The quilt we made was 1 ½ yards long and standard width (43" to 45").

If the adaptation you imagine takes fewer illustrations, adjust the size of your blocks. A simple quilt uses one yard of backing fabric, one yard for the front, and one yard of batting. Four blocks, 12" square illustrate a simple theme.

3. Quilts are made using cotton fabric from the quilting section of the fabric store or the bargain rack. Take care to buy cotton or cotton blend fabrics. Avoid fabrics that stretch, as sewing will be more difficult than necessary.

Quilts can be made very interesting by carefully matching the fabrics to the theme. Novelty print cotton fabrics are available illustrating a variety of themes. While shopping we saw fabrics printed with farm themes, community workers, fire fighters, numbers, animals, and even spiders. One class chose that fabric to use on a quilt illustrating the book "Charlotte's Web" by E.B.White. Coordinate the front and back fabric by color or theme for more interest.

4. Purchase 1 ½ yards of cotton fabric for the front and back of the quilt and 1 ½ yards of medium weight batting for each alphabet quilt. You will also need good scissors for cutting the fabric, medium sized (around 1") quilting safety pins, coordinating cotton thread, a pin cushion, an

iron, an ironing board, and a sewing machine that can stitch straight stitching. Using grant money, we purchased a special "walking" quilting foot for each sewing machine we used that helps the machine feed the thick quilt under the foot. It keeps the quilt from bunching up as it is sewn. Each machine must be fitted with its own specific foot as sizes are not standard. The walking foot costs between $25 and $30 dollars.

5. The quilt blocks sewn onto the quilt are made from 1½ yards of white bleached cotton muslin fabric. An alphabet quilt requires <u>thirty</u> blocks six inches square.

6. Each block is pressed onto a piece of freezer paper. Freezer paper is found in the section of the grocery store with the plastic wrap. It is normally used for wrapping meats. It has a shiny side and a dull side. The muslin is placed on the shiny side and pressed with a dry hot iron. The paper will stick to the muslin, stiffening it long enough for the children to <u>draw directly on the fabric</u> and color it. When the quilt block is completely colored, the freezer paper is stripped off and discarded.

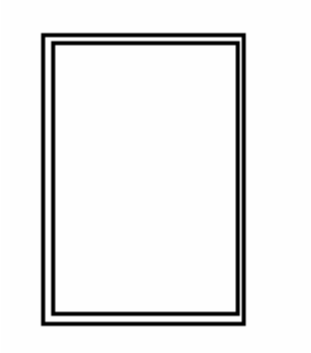
7. The children should practice their drawing on scrap paper and work the design until it is how they like it. When the design is finalized, it can be placed on a light box or base of an overhead projector and traced

directly onto the muslin fabric. Allow a ¼" border on all sides of the design for a hem. Outline the drawing with fine line Sharpie® marker so it is clear and sharp.

8. **Color the drawing with common wax crayons. The finished quilt block will have excess wax from the crayons. Place a paper towel over the wax. Press with a hot iron to remove the wax. Discard the paper towel and the freezer paper. Press a ¼" hem on all sides to turn the raw edges under and prevent fraying**

9. Making The Quilt

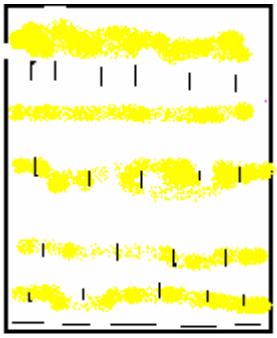
Wash your top and backing fabric to remove the sizing. Snip any threads. Check to see that the fabric has been cut straight across. If the fabric was cut unevenly, cut it straight across.



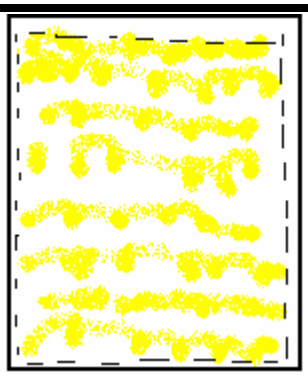
Place the two pieces of fabric on top of each other (see above) with the *printed sides together*. Pin it together and sew around 3 sides.

Flip the fabrics right side out, seams inside. It will be like a big pillow case now. Stuff your batting inside the fabric case you made. Turn the raw hems to the inside and stitch that side closed.

Pin the quilt all over with the quilting safety pins so the batting does not slip while you sew. See below.



Top stitch all around the edges of your quilt, ¼" in from sides, to anchor the quilt batting down.



Pin your alphabet quilt blocks in rows onto the quilt. Sew around each one. Sew a nameplate on the back. Include a sentence that says, "Based on the book_____ by _____." You did not write the book you based your quilt on. You must indicate it is your interpretation of someone else's work. Include the name of the class that made the quilt, the teacher's name, and the year. See photo below for an example of finished quilts.