



Tips & Tricks for Educators



The books are just the beginning....

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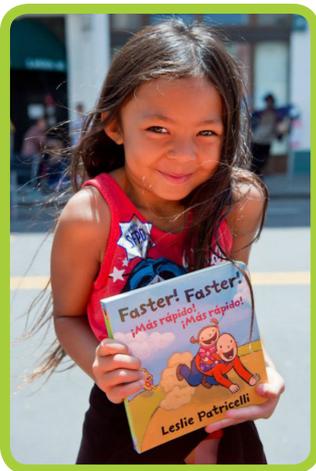


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The goal of the StoryCycles™ book-sharing program is to provide families with the resources and information they need to make sharing books with their children an enjoyable part of their daily routine. Research shows that daily book-sharing routines not only build strong family bonds, but also build the early literacy and language skills children need to succeed in school.



As an educator, you know your students and families best. We trust your judgement when it comes to ensuring that taking home and returning the StoryCycles book bags becomes a habit for every family in your class. The tips and tricks included in this booklet are based on strategies that many educators have found successful in the past.



You will also find free, downloadable content on our website at: **[tandembayarea.org/resources/for-educators-partners/](https://www.tandembayarea.org/resources/for-educators-partners/)**

Circulating StoryCycles™ Materials

1 Send the StoryCycles book bags home on Thursday and collect them on Tuesday.

- This ensures that you will have a built-in “gap day” to check for any missing materials and send along reminder notices.
- Keep in mind that Monday and Friday tend to have the highest rates of absenteeism.
- This schedule allows families to enjoy the bag of books in their home for 5 days each week.

2 Give yourself some time to check the bags for any missing items, or additional items that do not belong to the StoryCycles program before sending the bag to the next child.

3 Store your StoryCycles materials in a highly-visible, designated place in your classroom.

- Place your **Reminder Wheel** in a permanent location, like your classroom door, on a bulletin board, or near your StoryCycles materials.

4 Use your tracking chart or any other system that works for you to make sure you know where the StoryCycles bags and materials are at all times so you can follow up with any families who have not returned their bags or books on time.

Getting Families Involved

- 1** Encourage families to sign the Tandem™ Family Pledge. You can download and print the form in English, Spanish, and Chinese by visiting: **bit.ly/TandemEducators**



- 2** Ask a Community Literacy Specialist about scheduling a StoryCycles Introduction workshop for families at your site.

- 3** If possible, invite family members or volunteers to help you call families who have forgotten to return materials, check bags and make sure all books are returned, or share stories with the children.

Encourage families to visit our website to view videos about book-sharing in English, Spanish, and Cantonese at: bit.ly/TandemParents.

Sparking Joy in the Classroom

- 1** Set an appointment with your Community Literacy Specialist for an interactive Read Aloud visit to introduce children to the StoryCycles program and get them excited to take their bags and books home.



- 2** Pick a StoryCycles book to read during circle time the same day you send bags home.



- 3** Incorporate movements, songs, and time for questions during your own book-sharing time; children love interacting with you!

- 4** Sing the StoryCycles book-sharing song before reading or before handing out the bags to students.

If you feel that any of the books in your StoryCycles collection are inappropriate for your classroom or families, call your Community Literacy Specialist to discuss an exchange of titles.

Learn More with Tandem

- When you schedule an interactive Read Aloud visit with your Tandem Community Literacy Specialist, request an emphasis on one of the six kindergarten readiness skills outlined in the Tandem Support Menu. Skills include: Phonological Awareness; Vocabulary; Social and Emotional Understanding; Self-Regulation; Critical Thinking; and Print Awareness.
- If you are interested in attending one of our educator trainings, please contact us for more information. Topics for these trainings are listed on the Tandem **Support Menu** you received at the beginning of the year. You may also view the Support Menu on our website at: bit.ly/TandemEducators.



Additional Resources

- Need additional support? Call your local Community Literacy Specialist to troubleshoot specific problems. Our job is to be your partners in early learning!



- Visit www.tandembayarea.org to sign up for Tandem newsletters to receive more information about our community-based workshops and events.
- Download and print classroom and family resource materials in English, Spanish, and Chinese by visiting: **bit.ly/TandemEducators**

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