



*“Language and story can be a source of creativity and joy.” Big Idea*

## Read

*“Stories and other texts help us learn about ourselves and our families.” Big Idea*

Using the Foxy and Friends stories, teachers begin with the Read phase of the Read, Play, Talk, Write process. This reading may be through **Guided Reading**, or **Shared Reading** of the books.

## Play

*“Curiosity and wonder lead us to new discoveries about ourselves and the world around us.” Big Idea*

Play is then encouraged using animals from the stories or other animals. Teachers set up a **provocation** with materials from nature or they take the students outside to play in their **local environments**. This is the **creative thinking** phase, where children are encouraged to use their imaginations and create scenarios using the animals.

## Talk

*“Everyone has a unique story to share.*

*Through listening and speaking, we connect with others and share our world.” Big Ideas*

**Oral language** is fostered and developed as the children participate in **storytelling**.

Our role as facilitators is to ask questions that will help the children develop their stories. The stories can be collaborative or individual, depending on the teacher's purpose and the needs of the students.

## Write

*“Stories and other texts can be shared through pictures and words.*

*Playing with language helps us discover how language works.” Big Ideas*

The writing phase can include drawing/painting/sculpting (or whatever form of **representation** the students and teachers want to use). After the children have developed their stories through play, oral storytelling, and art, they record them in written format. Again, this can be an individual or group process.

Some schools have gone on to **publish** class books using Microsoft Publisher or other software. Sharing these class books on Smartboards is a wonderful way to further Shared Reading in your classroom. The children's books can be printed off or emailed home for families to enjoy.

The process of reading, playing, talking, and writing, has its roots in the Story Workshop process.

For more information on Story Workshop, check out the Opal School blog:

<http://opalschoolblog.typepad.com/opal-school-blog/story-workshop/>