

# Read and Sing Book Club Parent Letter

Dear Parents,

Your child is bringing home a favorite **Nellie Edge Read and Sing™** book! This book is for you and your child to enjoy singing and reading together. Depending on your child's interest, consider these enjoyable ways to read the book:

- Ask your child to sing or chant the whole book to you "by heart" while looking at the pictures.
- **Echo Reading:** You read one page and let your child reread the page.
- **Read and Sing the book with your child** and hand-in-hand point to the words. (See the enclosed article about the Neurological Impress Method.)
- **Taking Turns:** You read a sentence and then let your child read the next one.
- **Listen to your child read and sing the whole book**, touching under each word. (That is what good beginning readers do!)

Some song picture books are so much fun we enjoy reading and singing them and studying the pictures over and over again. This is one way we develop a love of reading; books become like dear friends. You can probably remember those special books from childhood that you wanted to hear again and again. Song picture books create especially endearing memories. **The *Music is Magic* CD that accompanies these books is our gift to your family. Enjoy singing along!**

To help your child gain reading confidence and fluency, let them practice reading to any appreciative listener—even a stuffed animal!

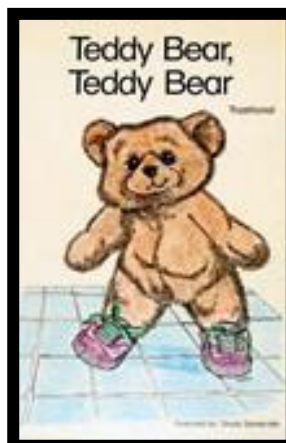
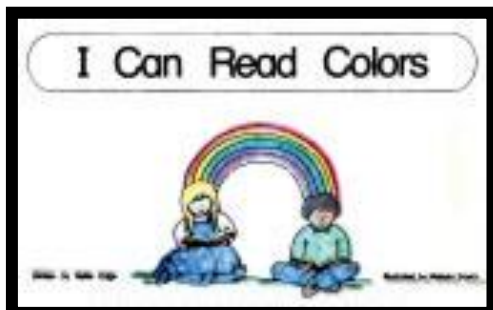
Research shows: "The more you read, the better you read... so read, read, read!"

- **Before a book can be returned to school and exchanged for a new one, your child has been asked to read and sing it to at least two people who put their initials under the title of each book on the book envelope cover.**

Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions or comments.

With appreciation,

Your Teacher




A Nellie Edge "Parents as Partners" Letter 2014, used with permission. For more details and research about the Read and Sing Book Club and using quality children's books to develop readers, see the Read & Sing tab under [www.nellieedge.com](http://www.nellieedge.com).

# 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.

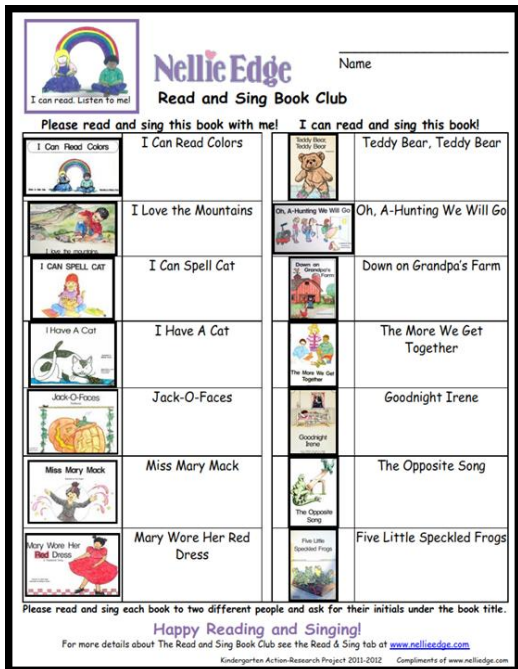
By November every child is eager to participate in The Read and Sing Book Club, taking a new book home every few days and reading with two different adults who initial the book club envelope cover. When the children return the books, they will choose new ones.



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

# Practical Tips for Starting a Nellie Edge Read and Sing Book Club™

## Well-Loved Song Picture Books Make Up Our First Home-to-School Family Literacy Connection



Download form from Read & Sing tab at [nellieedge.com](http://nellieedge.com).

Please cover each guided reading book with clear contact paper for durability as these books will be well used!

- You can still use the black and white Little Books that accompany each Nellie Edge Read and Sing Big Book™ for family literacy; however, with **the full-color books**, they are more enticed to enjoy a relaxed and joyful “read and sing” time together.
- A collection of 14 Read and Sing titles are now available as guided reading sets: Choose the titles your children love singing and reading the most.

- Download book envelope cover and see sample parent letter and articles designed to coach parents in supporting the learning-to-read process. See Read & Sing tab at [nellieedge.com](http://nellieedge.com) for details.
- Our goal is to simultaneously build language and literacy skills for diverse learners: All children are English language learners!
- We want to support parents in establishing a nightly reading time at home, now and for the next many years!
- The special home-to-school padded recording envelopes for *Nellie Edge Read and Sing Books* make it simple for children to bring their books back to class. They then get to choose another favorite Read and Sing book to bring home.



Trim the cover page and tape it to a #2 size padded shipping envelope. The envelopes are less expensive bought by the case from a packing supply company.