



For ages  
**3-5**

# The Bookworm

From your  
local library  
and Idaho's Read  
to Me program

## Print Awareness

Being familiar with printed language helps children feel comfortable with books and understand that print is useful. It is one of the six early literacy skills that help young children become readers.

Here are some ways to help your child develop print awareness:

- Show children that print is all around them. Point it out in signs, on menus, and in books and newspapers.
- Occasionally run your finger along the bottom of words while reading. This helps children understand that print runs from left to right and that you are reading text rather than looking at pictures.
- Point to some words as you say them, especially words that are repeated.
- Label objects around your home, such as "bed," "window," "door," and "toys."
- Let your child turn the pages. When you are done reading, let her hold the book and tell you the story.
- Talk about and play with punctuation marks. Show your child what an exclamation mark and a question mark are, and why you read those sentences differently.
- Encourage children to play with print every day. Help them make lists, write notes, make signs, etc.

Children with print awareness understand that print has different functions; menus list food choices, a book tells a story, a sign can show a favorite restaurant or warn of danger.

## Book of the Month

### *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale*, by Mo Willems

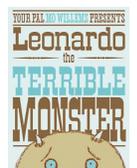
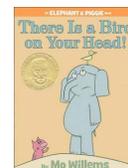
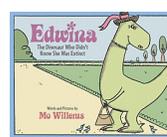


Leaving the Laundromat

with her daddy, toddler Trixie realizes she's forgotten her beloved stuffed animal, Knuffle Bunny (pronounced "k-nuffle," with a hard 'k' sound), but Daddy can't understand her efforts to tell him what is wrong. Both parents and young children will see themselves in this hilarious story, which is cleverly told through the pictures as well as the text.



Author/illustrator Mo Willems received a Caldecott Honor for *Knufflebunny: A Cautionary Tale*, as well as two other books, *Knufflebunny, Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity*, and *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*. He was also awarded the Theodor Seuss Geisel Medal for *There Is a Bird on Your Head!*, part of his Elephant and Piggie series.



Here are some other good books to help your child develop **print awareness**:

*I'm Not Cute!* Jonathan Allen

*Bounce*, Doreen Cronin

*Smash! Crash!* Jon Scieszka

*Can You Make a Scary Face?* Jan Thomas

*First the Egg*, Laura Vaccaro Seeger

*Put It On the List*, Kristen Darbyshire

## More fun with *Knuffle Bunny*...

**Print awareness...** As you read the story with your child, point out the words on the signs in the photos, such as "Laundromat," and "Not responsible for clothing or articles left on the premises." Talk about what the words tell us.

**Talk about it...** This story also has lots of word bubbles with bold print. Point these

**AGGLE  
FLAGGLE  
KLABBLE!**

out to your child and explain that word bubbles are used to show what the character is saying. Also point out the different types of punctuation marks and font, and show how these clues tell us how to read the words with emotion.

Snurp.

**Out and about...** To help your child become aware of print, take a walk through your neighborhood and point out things with print on them: stop signs, street signs, businesses, newsstands, bus stops, etc. Help your child read the words.

### Action Rhyme

#### MY FEELINGS

When I am sad, I feel like crying. (*rub eyes*)

When I am proud, I feel like trying.  
(*head held high*)

When I feel curious, I want to know.  
(*look up, wondering*)

When I'm impatient, I want to go!  
(*cross arms, tap foot*)

When I feel angry, I look this way.  
(*angry look*)

When I feel happy, I smile all day.  
(*big smile*)

When I am puzzled, I make a shrug. (*shrug shoulders*)

When I feel loving, I want to hug. (*hug yourself*)



## Holiday Tunes!



'Tis the season to sing "Jingle Bells" and other family favorites. Sharing songs is a good way to explore language and different cultures with your child. Music activities can help build vocabulary and improve attention span, concentration and memory. Here's a great website for song favorites:

<http://bussongs.com>



Show your child lots of different musical instruments, and let her play and experiment with some of them. Homemade instruments are cheap and easy to make:

- Shaker: Put rice or beans in a closed container with the lid safely taped in place
- Drum: Use a spoon and a pot, or a wooden spoon and an upside down laundry basket
- Hummer: Use toilet or paper towel roll, cut circle of wax paper that is larger than hole, tape it over hole on one end. Hum into it. For a different sound, paper punch a hole in the side of the roll.

### What your library can do for you...

"Print awareness" is one of the six early literacy skills children should develop before they enter school. Your youth services librarian can suggest books and activities that help you support your child's learning at home.

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