The Bookworm  Ages 3-5
From your Local Library and Idaho’s Read to Me Program  November, 2008

Family Reading Week: November 16–22
AR-R-R-R-RE You Reading?

Many parents become library users when their children are toddlers and preschoolers. Many also know how important it is to read aloud to children in order to support their reading development. However, as their children get older and become readers themselves, parents often depend more on teachers for reading support, and become less aware of how libraries can continue to support their children and themselves as they grow older.

There’s so much to see and do at your library! The library is a place the whole family can enjoy. In addition to reading and storytimes, many libraries offer game nights, arts and crafts, workshops, kids’ clubs, adult clubs, teen programs, computer access, video games, movies, music, and more.

Family Reading Week is an annual statewide celebration of reading as a family activity. The theme this year is "AR-R-R-R-R-RE You Reading?" Libraries across the state are planning exciting pirate-themed events. Whether you plan to set sail for your local library or batten down the hatches at home, we hope your crew enjoys time reading books together!

Book of the Month

How I Became a Pirate, written by Melinda Long, illustrated by David Shannon

Jeremy Jacob is building a sandcastle when a pirate ship lands nearby. He takes off for an adventure on the high seas to help the men bury their treasure chest. He learns that buccaneers don’t bother with manners or bedtimes, which is just fine with him, but it also means no bedtime stories or being tucked in. When a storm hits, forcing the crew to return to shore, Jeremy solves the problem of where to bury the treasure, and he even makes it home in time for soccer practice!

If your child enjoyed this story, check out the sequel:
Pirates Don’t Change Diapers, Melinda Long

Here are some other good pirate books to look for at your library:

1001 Pirate Things to Spot, Usborne books
Do Pirates Take Baths? Kathy Tucker
Pirate Pete, Kim Kennedy
Don’t Mention Pirates, Sarah McConnell
Shiver Me Letters: A Pirate ABC, June Sobel
Roger, the Jolly Pirate, Brett Helquist
Night Pirates, Peter Harris
More fun with *How I Became a Pirate*...

**Print awareness**... When the crew repeats what Braid Beard says, the words are written in large black type. Point these out to your child as you read the story, and let him read those sentences with you.

“Down the hatch!”

**Around the house**... Jeremy Jacob drew a map showing where the treasure was buried. Help your child draw a map of the backyard or a room in the house. Your little pirate may even bury or hide a treasure of her own—X marks the spot!

**Talk about it**... A good way for children to practice their language skills and put their vocabulary into action is by describing a scene that includes a lot of detail and activity. Let your child choose a page from the book and ask him to talk about what is happening in the picture.

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**Puppet Poem**

**Five Mean Pirates**

Five mean pirates standing on the ship
One leaned too far over and gave them all the slip.

Four mean pirates standing by the door
One stamped her foot and broke right through the floor.

Three mean pirates leaning by the sail
One slipped into the water and started to wail.

Two mean pirates standing by the rope
One caught his foot and didn’t stand a hope.

One mean pirate felt a big hard bump
A whale had hit the starboard and make her start to jump.

No pirates left, but I don’t mind.
I don’t like bullies. They really aren’t kind!

(from “1999 Treasure Your Library,” Collaborative Summer Library Program manual)

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**Technology Connection**

Websites with more pirate activities:

- [www.britishcouncil.org/kids-topics-pirates.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/kids-topics-pirates.htm)
- [www.harcourtbooks.com/pirates/](http://www.harcourtbooks.com/pirates/)
- [www.sillybooks.net/books/PirateSong/I_sail_the_sea.html](http://www.sillybooks.net/books/PirateSong/I_sail_the_sea.html)

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

No computer or internet access at home? Most area libraries offer free internet and/or wireless services. Visit your local library today and check out these fun pirate websites!

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