

Did you know...



Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing *before* they actually learn to read and write. Reading with your little ones every day and teaching them about the world around them are practices that help prepare children to learn to read later on. You can start at birth!

This monthly newsletter will help you become more familiar with early literacy skills, and contains tips and activities you can try at home with your child. *The Bookworm* is published monthly for three age groups: Babies/Toddlers, Preschool (3-5), and Kindergarten. You can find more *Bookworms*, as well as versions in Spanish, at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/bookworm>.

Here's how...

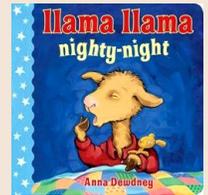


- ✦ Make book-sharing a special time between you and your child. Get comfortable and cozy!
- ✦ Begin reading books early, even when your child is a newborn.
- ✦ Let your child see you reading and enjoying reading.
- ✦ Visit your public library often.
- ✦ Let toddlers choose the books they want to read or have read to them.
- ✦ Very young children have a short attention span, so keep reading activities brief and fun. Don't worry about finishing a story.
- ✦ Share rhymes and songs that young children enjoy. Keeping books fun will keep them coming back for more.

Read



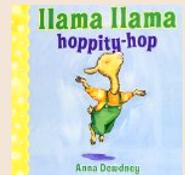
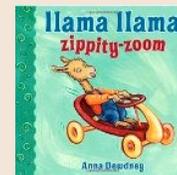
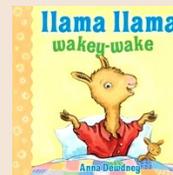
***Llama Llama Nighty-Night*, by Anna Dewdney**



What's the best part of bedtime? Stories with Mama! Before cuddling, Llama Llama must splash and splash in the tub, then put his red pajamas on. Babies and toddlers will love this perfect read-aloud!



Dewdney's catchy rhymes, easy rhythm, and adorable artwork from her picture books can be enjoyed by younger audiences in these new board books.



Choosing Books



A word about board books...

Babies explore their world by putting things into their mouths, including books! This is normal and board books are made for little hands and mouths because they are harder to damage than other books.

Pages of board books are sturdy, the pictures are simple and clear, and the designs are bright and fun.

Clean board books with a little soap and water and wipe them dry. Store books where your baby or toddler can easily reach them on his or her own, such as a basket or low shelf.

Talk



Research shows that the more you talk with your baby or toddler, the better reader she will be later on. “Reading” with your little one can just be showing her the pictures in the books and talking about what you see. “Look here, Llama Llama’s Mama is reading a bedtime story.”

Write



In order to hold a pencil later on, young children need to practice tiny movements with their fingers. Let your child do as much of the bedtime routine as possible: brush teeth, scrub face, pull on or zip pajamas, brush hair...

Sing



Lullaby: Hush Little Baby

Hush, little baby, don't say a word,
Papa's gonna buy you a mockingbird.

And if that mockingbird won't sing,
Papa's gonna buy you a diamond ring.

And if that diamond ring turns brass,
Papa's gonna buy you a looking glass.

And if that looking glass gets broke,
Papa's gonna buy you a billy goat.

And if that billy goat won't pull,
Papa's gonna buy you a cart and bull.

And if that cart and bull turn over,
Papa's gonna buy you a dog named Rover.

And if that dog named Rover won't bark,
Papa's gonna buy you a horse and cart.

And if that horse and cart fall down,
You'll still be the sweetest
little baby in town.

Hear the tune:

www.kidsongs.com/lyrics/hush-little-baby.html



Play



Action Rhyme for Toddlers

(Make up actions to go with the words)

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, shut the door.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, count to four.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, reach up high.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, wink one eye.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, put away your shoes.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, that will do.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch your nose.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch your toes.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, climb in bed.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, rest your head.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn out the light.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, say,
“Goodnight.”



At your library...



Your library offers many free resources to help you build your child’s early literacy skills: age-appropriate books, music CDs, storytimes, parent workshops, booklists, take-home information, and events for the whole family!