

## 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



### ***Love Is You and Me/ El amor somas tú y yo*, by Anna Bardaus**



Babies and toddlers love looking at photographs of people, places, and things. This book pairs simple sentences with photos of young children doing things with their families. There are also storytime tips to try at home.

Here are some other great board books by Anna Bardaus:



*Amazing Feelings*

*Read Read, Baby!*

*In My Neighborhood*

*Y Is for Yum Yum Yum*

*Can You Say Moo, Too?*



## 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. "Oh, look at all the chocolate on this girl's face! Isn't that funny?"

## Ready to Write



In order to hold a pencil later on, young children need to practice tiny movements with their fingers. Let your child try to hold the book or turn the pages. Let her point to or pat the photos as you talk about them.

## 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](http://www.kidsongs.com/lyrics/hush-little-baby.html)

## Play



### Acka Backa Soda Cracker

*(Gently bounce baby on lap/toddlers stand and bounce knees)*

Acka backa soda cracker,

Acka backa boo!

Acka backa soda cracker,

Up goes you!

*(Lift baby into air/toddlers jump up high)*

*(Gently bounce baby on lap/toddlers stand and bounce knees)*

Acka backa soda cracker,

Acka backa boo!

Acka backa soda cracker,

I love you! *(Give baby/toddler a hug)*

Watch game at:

[https://youtu.be/X\\_KxY5YGck](https://youtu.be/X_KxY5YGck)



## 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!