A child’s love of reading begins with you...

Developing a love of reading, or print motivation, is one of the six early literacy skills that help children become readers in school. To be motivated to read, kids need to:

- appreciate the pleasures of reading.
- view reading as a social act to be shared with others.
- see reading as a chance to explore their interests.
- read for many purposes; from enjoyment to gathering information.
- become comfortable with different kinds and types of writing.

You can help develop print motivation by:

- making book-sharing a special time between you and your child. Get comfortable and cozy!
- letting your child see you reading and enjoying reading.
- visiting your public library often.
- letting children choose the books they want to read or have read to them.
- giving books as gifts.
- subscribing to a magazine that interests your child.

Children who enjoy books will want to learn to read and are more likely to become lifelong readers!

Book of the Month

Today is Monday, by Eric Carle

In this book lively animals parade across the page, munching on favorite dishes, and introducing young readers to the names of the days of the week. On Sunday all the world’s children are invited to come together and share in the meal.

About the Author

Eric Carle is the creator of many beautifully illustrated picture books for very young children. Though his best-known work is The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Carle has illustrated more than 70 books, most of which he also wrote, and more than 88 million copies of his books have sold around the world. Find a complete list of books at www.eric-carle.com or your library.

More books your child will love...

How I Became a Pirate, Carol Diggory Shields
Meet Traction Man, Mini Grey
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good Very Bad Day, Judith Viorst
Piggie Pie, Margie Palatini
True Story of the Three Little Pigs, Jon Scieszka
Fancy Nancy series, Jane O'connor
Junie B. Jones series, Barbara Park
Henry and Mudge series, Cynthia Rylant
More fun with *Today is Monday*

Music and movement... This book is based on the children's song, “Today is Monday.” To hear a short clip of how the tune goes, visit www.songsforteaching.com/jimrule/todayismonday.htm.

Arts and crafts... Create a "My Days of the Week Book." Stack 5 pieces of paper and fold them in half to make a book. Staple the folded edge to fasten the pages in place. Encourage your child to draw a picture of himself on the front cover. Then create a page for each day of the week. Encourage your child to draw a picture of something special that happens on each day of the week. Connecting events to the days they occur on helps children remember which day it is.

Around the house... Post a calendar in your child’s room. Write down special occasions or appointments. Talk with your child each morning: “Today is Monday. It is a school day. Tomorrow is Tuesday and it is Grandma’s birthday!” Say the rhyme to the right:

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You can say this rhyme each morning as you look at the calendar with your child.

**What Day is Today?**

What day is today? *(say the day of the week)*

Hooray!!!

Today is the day to celebrate all days.

Sunday and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday,

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, too!

What day is today? *(say the day of the week)*

Hooray!!!

- Katrina Lybbert,
*Brightly Beaming Resources*

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**Song**

*Today is...  (To the tune of “Frere Jacques”)*

Today is ________.
Today is ________.
All day long, all day long.
Yesterday was ________.
Tomorrow will be ________.
Oh what fun!
Oh what fun!

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

Most libraries offer special programs for children, free of charge. Storytimes or special events for young children allow “together time” with fun activities and stories. Ask your librarian about programs offered at your local public library.

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