**Reading Tips for Parents**

- Choose a quiet spot for you and your child.
- Keep books and other reading materials where your child can reach them.
- Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- Show your child how you read every day for fun and work.
- Talk about the books you are reading with your child. Help him or her make connections to what they are reading.

**What is Early Literacy?**

Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they actually learn to read and write. Helping your child develop early literacy skills will build a foundation for reading so that when they are taught to read they are ready.

**Every Child Ready to Read®**

Reading with your child every day, discussing stories and events, encouraging them to learn letters and words, and teaching them about the world around them are practices that help prepare children to learn to read. This newsletter will help you become more familiar with these early literacy skills, as well as share tips and activities you can try at home with your child. *The Bookworm* is published monthly for three age groups: Birth to 2; Preschool (3-5); and Kindergarten/First Grade. You can find more Bookworms at [http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/bookworm](http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/bookworm), or ask your local librarian for additional copies.

**Book of the Month**

*Library Mouse, by Daniel Kirk*

Every child can be a writer—and *Library Mouse* shows them how! This is the story of Sam, a library mouse whose home was in a little hole in the wall behind the children’s books, and he loved to read. Sam read so much that finally one day he decided to write books himself. He shared his books with other library visitors by placing them on a bookshelf at night...until there came the time that children wanted to meet this talented author. Whatever was Sam to do? The joy of reading, writing, and sharing is brought to life in this warmhearted tale.

*Starred Review: American Library Association Booklist*

**More books by author/illustrator Daniel Kirk**

- *Library Mouse: A Friend’s Tale*
- *My Truck is Stuck*
- *Lunchroom Lizard*
- *Bus Stop, Bus Go!*
- *Rex Tabby: Cat Detective* (beginning chapter book)
- *Dogs Rule! and Cat Power!* (book and music CD)

**New in 2010:**

- *Library Mouse: World to Explore*
- *Honk Honk! Beep Beep!*

Find more books and music, as well as games, activities, and interviews with the author at: [http://danielkirk.com](http://danielkirk.com)
More fun with Library Mouse

Out and about... Take a trip to the library, where you can use the computer or sit in on storytime. Your librarian can help you choose appropriate books for your child’s age and special interests. Everyone is welcome at the library, even if you don’t have a library card!

Meet the author... As Sam says, every child can be an author! Help your child write her own book. If you have a computer, check out author Daniel Kirk’s website listed on page 1. Here you can find step by step instructions to make the paper part of the book. Then encourage your child to fill the pages with her story. Here are some suggestions:

- All about me (or all about my family)
- My trip to the zoo (or park, museum, woods)
- A funny thing happened on the way to...

Rhyme

Read to Me
by author Jane Yolen

Read to me riddles and read to me rhymes
Read to me stories of magical times
Read to me tales about castles and kings
Read to me stories of fabulous things
Read to me pirates and read to me knights
Read to me dragons and dragon-book fights
Read to me spaceships and cowboys and then
When you are finished- please read them again.

Song

Sharing songs, and rhymes with your child helps develop important reading skills. Try this favorite song at home:

If You’re Happy and You Know It
If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands.
(clap, clap)
If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands.
(clap, clap)
If you’re happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it.
If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands.
(clap, clap)

Sing it again with these actions:
...stomp your feet (stomp, stomp)
...shout “Hurray!” (Hurray!)
...do all three (clap, clap, stomp, stomp, Hurray!)

Suggestion:
Make up verses and actions for other emotions (excited, sad, angry)

What your library can do for you...

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!

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