



Did you know...



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. You can start at birth!

Reading aloud with your kindergartener every day and teaching them about the world around them are practices that help prepare children to learn to read.

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 and Toddlers, Preschool, and Kindergarten. You can find more *Bookworms*, as well as versions in Spanish, at

<http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/bookworm>.



Here's how...

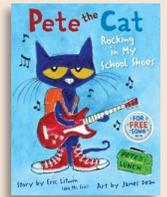


- ❖ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ❖ Keep books and other reading materials where your child can reach them.
- ❖ Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- ❖ Show your child how you read every day for fun and work (novels, newspapers, magazines, etc.).
- ❖ Visit the library or bookstore with your child to attend storytimes and choose books to read at home.

Read



***Pete the Cat: Rocking in My School Shoes*, by Eric Litwin and James Dean**



Pete the Cat is one groovy dude, and in this book he's rocking in his school shoes. Pete discovers the library, the lunchroom, the playground, and lots of other cool places at school. And no matter where he goes, Pete never stops moving and grooving and singing his song... because it's all good.

Mr. Eric is an award-winning author and musician. Hear Mr. Eric sing Pete's song at

www.thelearninggroove.com

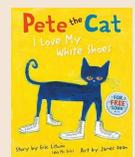
Go to the **Lyrics and Activities** tab, then to **Search by Song Title**

Choosing Books

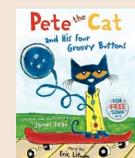


Look for other *Pete the Cat* books at your library:

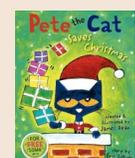
Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes is where we first meet Pete, groovin' along and singing his song, even when his beloved white shoes turn a rainbow of colors.



Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons: As Pete's buttons pop off one by one, he still finds a reason to sing. A very funny counting book.



Pete the Cat Saves Christmas: Pete proves that giving your all in the spirit of Christmas is the totally groovy thing to do.



Talk



Encourage your child to be active with this story. When you come to, “Does Pete worry?” each time, let your child respond with the “Goodness, no!” line. The more you read the story together, the more lines your child will want to “read” on her own. Then she’ll be reading the story to you!

Write



Part of learning to write is seeing how print is used in the world around us. Help your child find places in the illustrations where print is used, such as on the school bus, in the library, and in the lunchroom. Look for print as you are out and about with your child, like on road signs, or in restaurants or grocery stores.

Sing



I Like to Go to School!

(To the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*)

To hear the Farmer in the Dell tune go to

<http://bussongs.com/songs/the-farmer-in-the-dell.php>

I like to go to school.
I like to go to school.
Heigh-ho-the-derry-oh,
I like to go to school.
I like to sing new songs.
I like to sing new songs.
Heigh-ho-the-derry-oh,
I like to sing new songs.

Additional verses:

I like to play with friends...
I like to read my books...
I like to build with blocks...
I like to draw with crayons...



Play



Out and about... Playing word games in the car is a great way to have fun with your child and practice early literacy skills. Listen to the Pete the Cat song at the link on the front so you know the tune. Then take turns choosing words that end in “ing” to rock to. Examples:

I’m driving, in my school shoes.
I’m singing, in my school shoes.
I’m laughing, in my school shoes.



Stop and Go... Playing Stop and Go games helps your child learn to control his body. Try this one:

You clap and you clap and you clap and you stop!
(Do each movement four times)

You wiggle....
You bounce...
You walk...
You hop...
You spin...



See a video of this game at
<http://tinyurl.com/clap-and-stop>

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!