

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...

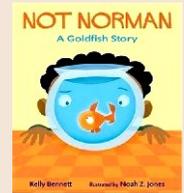


- ❖ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ❖ Keep books and other reading materials where your child can reach them.
- ❖ Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- ❖ Show your child 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



Not Norman: A Goldfish Story, by Kelly Bennett



Norman the goldfish isn't what this little boy had in mind. He wanted a different kind of pet — one that could run and catch, or a soft furry pet to sleep on his bed at night. Definitely not Norman. But when he tries to trade Norman for a "good pet," things don't go as he planned. Could it be that Norman is a better pet than he thought?

Other books by author Kelly Bennett:

Dad and Pop: An Ode to Fathers and Stepfathers

Your Mommy Was Just Like You

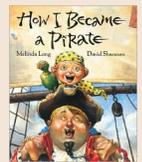
Your Daddy Was Just Like You

Choose Books



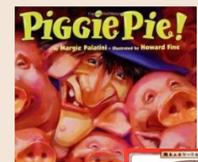
Other Fun Read-Alouds:

How I Became a Pirate, by Melinda Long



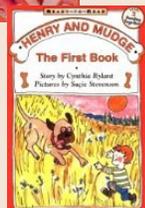
Too Many Toys, by David Shannon

Piggie Pie, by Margie Palatini



True Story of the Three Little Pigs, by John Scieszka

Fancy Nancy series, by Jane O'Connor



Junie B. Jones series, by Barbara Park

Henry and Mudge series, by Cynthia Rylant

Talk



Talk about how the pictures in books help tell the story. What is in the pictures that the author doesn't tell you in the story?

Write



The more your child handles pencils and crayons the more comfortable he will be writing. Let your child draw the family pet or Norman the Goldfish and help him label the picture with a name or describing words.

Sing



Have You Ever Been A-Fishin'?

Have you ever been a-fishin' on a bright sunny day? (*pretend to cast a line*)

Have you ever seen a fish swimming in an' out the bay? (*put two hands together and make your hands swim like a fish*)

With his hands in his pockets and his pockets in his pants? (*pat front pockets, then pat back pockets*)

Have you ever seen a fishy do the hootchy-kootchie dance? (*wiggle a little dance*)

(*Repeat movements from above for next verse*)

Well, I have been a-fishin' on a bright sunny day.

And I have seen the fish swimming in an' out the bay.

With his hands in his pockets and his pockets in his pants.

But I've never seen a fishy do the hootchy-kootchie dance!

To the tune of "Turkey in the Straw."

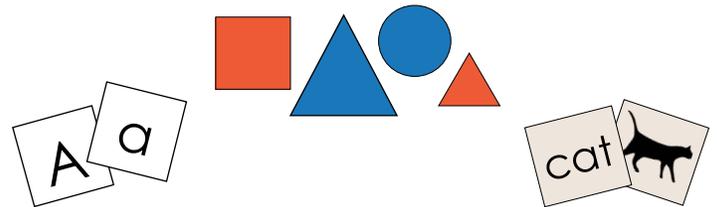
Hear tune: www.mamalisa.com/mp3/fish_in_the_bay.mp3

Play



Go Fishin' Matching Game

Tie a piece of string to a stick or straw, and then tie a magnet to the other end of the string. Make "fish" cards out of colored paper, magazines, old envelopes, cereal boxes, etc. Glue a paperclip to each "fish." You don't need to make fish shapes, any shape will do! Spread cards out on floor and let your child fish for matching pairs. You can make pairs for colors, letters, shapes, actual types of fish, numbers, or beginning words.



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!