



## 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...

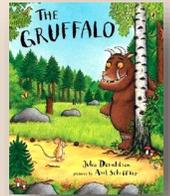


- ✦ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ✦ Keep books and other reading materials where your child can reach them.
- ✦ Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- ✦ Show your child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



### ***The Gruffalo*, by Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Scheffler**



Mouse is taking a stroll through the woods when along comes a hungry fox, then an owl, and then a snake. The mouse is good enough to eat but smart enough to know this, so he invents... the gruffalo! As Mouse explains, the gruffalo is a creature with terrible claws and terrible teeth and other scary features. But Mouse isn't worried. After all, there's no such thing as a gruffalo... or is there?

## Choose Books



### **More great books by this author-illustrator team:**

*The Gruffalo's Child*

*Charlie Cook's Favorite Book*

*The Spiffiest Giant in Town*

*Stick Man*

*The Snail and the Whale*

*Room on the Broom*

*A Squash and a Sneeze*

*Superworm*

*A Gold Star for Zog*

*Where's My Mom?*



## Talk



Studies show that when parents and caregivers talk with their children throughout the day, those children learn more words and are better able to learn to read. Asking your child questions about her day, explaining what you're doing as you do it, and talking about what you see as you're out and about are ways to talk *with*, rather than *at*, your child.

## Write



Drawing helps your kindergartener develop the fine motor skills needed to hold a pencil and write letters.

Create a gruffalo or monster together.



Help your child draw two circles on top of each other, then take turns adding horns, claws, teeth, big eyes, and other terrible things!

## Play

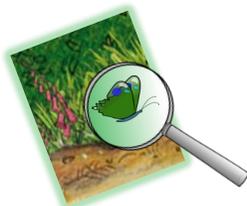


### I Spy...

Try this: Choose a page. Find something your child may not notice right away. Say, "I spy with my little eye, something \_\_\_\_ (that flies, red, round, that jumps, you can eat)." Let your child guess what it is. Give more clues if needed. Take turns on different pages.

There are lots of things in illustrations for your child to "spy." Each time you read the book together you will notice something new!

Games like these will help your child practice noticing details, and find things that are alike and different. These are important skills that help children be able to identify and write letters, and see how different letters form words.



## Sing



### Head Shoulders Knees and Toes

*(Touch each body part as you sing it)*

Head, shoulders, knees and toes,  
knees and toes.  
Head, shoulders, knees and toes,  
knees and toes,  
And eyes and ears and mouth and nose.  
Head, shoulders, knees and toes,  
knees and toes.

*(Repeat, getting faster each time)*

Now sing: Horns, fangs, knees and claws,  
Knees and claws.  
Horns, fangs, knees and claws,  
Knees and claws. *(repeat)*  
And eyes and ears and tails and paws,  
Horns, fangs, knees and claws,  
Knees and claws.

You can find the Head Shoulders Knees and Toes song at <http://tinyurl.com/wccls-knees-toes>  
*(Washington County Cooperative Library Services)*

## 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!