

## Did you know...



Children with print awareness understand that print has different functions; for example menus list food choices, a book tells a story, a sign can point to a favorite restaurant or warn of danger. Show children that print is all around them. Point it out when you are out in the community, or around the house.

It takes time and practice for children to understand that letters are symbols that create words, and that words represent things. Model for your child how to hold a book, and that you read a sentence from left to right. Running your finger under the words as you read shows them to read from the top to the bottom of the page. Making a game of these skills to keep it fun!



## Here's how...

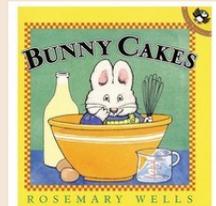


- ❖ Have a special box or drawer with materials that your child can use for writing and drawing.
- ❖ Create writing kits filled with different types of paper, envelopes, labels and stickers, greeting cards, note pads, and a variety of writing tools.
- ❖ Junk mail can be a treasure trove for your child. Save envelopes, labels, stickers, or small writing pads you receive to put in your child's writing kit.
- ❖ Provide lots of experiences for writing practice—let your child write with her finger in pudding or shaving cream on a flat surface, draw in sand or dry Jell-O in a flat box or pan, write letters with a paint brush, use sidewalk chalk.

## Read



### ***Bunny Cakes, by Rosemary Wells***

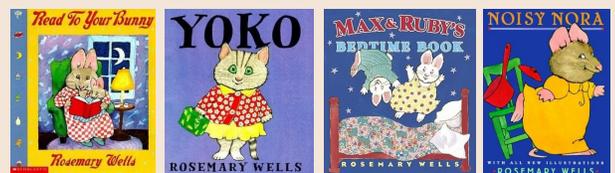


It's Grandma's birthday so Ruby and Max want to bake a cake. They both have a different idea of how to make one, so what should they do? When Ruby's ingredients need to be replaced, she sends Max to the store with a list. He wants red-hot marshmallow squirters but doesn't know how to write it. How can he let the grocer know?



You can find fun games and activities, as well as other books by Rosemary Wells at

[www.rosemarywells.com](http://www.rosemarywells.com)



## Choosing Books



### **Kinds of books that develop print awareness:**

- ◆ Books with lots of punctuation marks
- ◆ Books with signs, lists, labels, menus, charts, instructions, etc. as part of the illustrations
- ◆ Books in which characters are using print in different ways, such as writing a letter, or making a checklist

Any book!

## Talk



Children often don't know how to spell the words they want to write. You can help them by saying each letter of the word, or helping them sound out the word. How much help they need depends on how well they know letters and their sounds.

## Write



Making lists is a good way for children to learn and practice writing skills. They can help make lists for:

- ◆ Grocery shopping
- ◆ Chores to get done
- ◆ Activities they want to do
- ◆ Gifts for special days

## Play



### Here Is a Bunny

Here is a bunny with ears so funny,

*(2 bent fingers for ears)*

And here is his hole in the ground.

*(make circle with other hand)*

At the first sound he hears,

He pricks up his ears,

*(extend two fingers)*

And jumps in his hole in the ground.

*(fingers jump into the hole)*



## Sing



### Writing My Name

*(to the tune of The Farmer in the Dell)*

The first thing on my paper is my name,

The first thing on my paper is my name,

The teacher needs to know

Who did this work and so

The first thing on my paper is my name.



You can hear the tune to *The Farmer in the Dell* at [bussongs.com/songs/the-farmer-in-the-dell.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/the-farmer-in-the-dell.php)

## At your library...



Don't have access to a computer? Most libraries do not require a library card in order to use the computers. Some even offer free computer classes.