**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; 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.

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**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.

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**Book of the Month**

**Beatrice Doesn’t Want To,**

by Laura Numeroff

Because he’s her babysitter, Beatrice’s big brother Henry has to take her along when he goes to the library to do his homework. But Bea has no use for books or libraries, and she gives Henry plenty of trouble. Then Henry takes her to storytime, where the librarian reads a funny book about a mouse—and Beatrice is hooked! Young children love this story about finding just the right book.

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**More books by author Laura Numeroff**

- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie (También disponible en Español)
- If You Give a Moose a Muffin
- If You Give a Pig a Pancake
- The Best Mouse Cookie
- Laura Numeroff’s 10-Step Guide to Living With Your Monster
- What Mommies Do Best/
  What Daddies Do Best
- Dogs Don’t Wear Sneakers

**New in 2010!**

- Otis & Sydney And The Best Birthday Ever

To find more Laura Numeroff books, as well as activities and information about the author, visit [www.lauranumeroff.com](http://www.lauranumeroff.com)
More fun with Beatrice Doesn’t Want To

Talk about it… Look at the pictures in this book with your child. The illustrations show the characters with lots of different emotions. Talk about these with your child and help give her words to name the feelings. “Look at Bea’s face and arms on the first page. Bea sure looks stubborn!” “Henry looks very frustrated in this picture. How do you know he is frustrated?”

I spy… Did you notice that Bea’s stuffed dog can be found on almost every page? Ask your child to help you find the dog as you turn the pages. Sometimes it is hard to find!

Tech Time… If you have a computer, check out author Laura Numeroff’s website listed on page 1. You can help your child send an e-postcard to a friend or relative. Ask your child what he wants to say, then type it word for word. Be sure to read it back to him. This activity helps your child discover the power of print!

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, fingerplays, and rhymes with your young child helps develop important early literacy 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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