



The Bookworm

From your
local library
and Idaho's Read
to Me program

Print Awareness

Being familiar with printed language helps children feel comfortable with books and understand that print is useful.

To help develop print awareness:

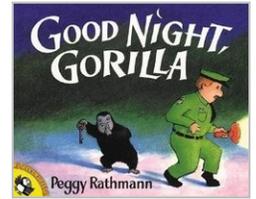
- Show children that print is all around them. Point it out in signs, on menus, and in books and newspapers.
- Occasionally run your finger along the bottom of words while reading. This helps children understand that print runs from left to right and that you are reading text rather than looking at pictures.
- Point to some words as you say them, especially words that are repeated.
- Label objects around your home, such as "bed," "window," "door," and "toys."
- Let your child turn the pages. When you are done reading, let her hold the book and tell you the story.
- Talk about and play with punctuation marks. Show your child what an exclamation mark (!) and a question mark (?) are, and how you read those sentences differently.
- Encourage children to play with print every day. Help them make lists, write notes, make signs, etc.

Children with print awareness understand that print has different functions; for example, menus list food choices, a book tells a story, a sign can show a favorite restaurant or warn of danger.



Book of the Month

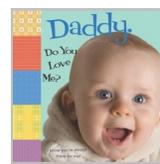
Good Night Gorilla, by
Peggy Rathmann



Children love reading about the little gorilla who unlocks the cages for all the animals at the zoo. Although there are only two words in this book, saying and pointing to "Good Night" over and over as you tell the story helps children become more aware of print in books.

More books to help develop print awareness:

Early Talkers (Birth to 2 years)

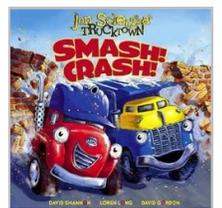


First Words, by Anna Harrison
Daddy, Do You Love Me? and
Mommy Do You Love Me? by Ron
Berry

Global Babies, by Global Fund for Children

Talkers (3 to 5 years)

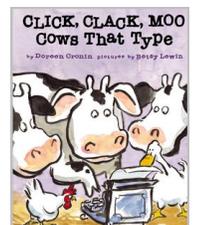
Smash! Crash! by Jon Scieszka
I'm Not Cute, by Jonathan Allen
First the Egg, by Laura Vaccaro
Seeger



Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale, by Mo
Willems

Pre-readers (Grades K-1)

*Clack, Clack, Moo: Cows That
Type*, by Doreen Cronin
Tops and Bottoms, by Janet
Stevens

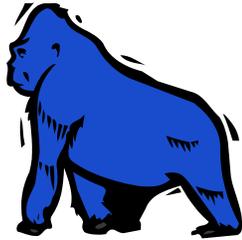


Dear Peter Rabbit, by Alma Flor Ada
Put It On the List, by Kristen Darbyshire
Robot Zot, by Jon Scieszka

More fun with *Good Night Gorilla...*

Math Connections... Animal Cookie Math! Take a box of animal cookies and have your child sort and count the cookies. You can also have them choose a cookie and make the sound the animal makes.

Out and About... Take a trip to the zoo or just look for animals around you next time you are out and about with your child. Talk with him/her about the animals; where do they live, what do they eat?



Movin' and Groovin'... Collect pictures of baby animals and their mommas. Use these pictures to talk about each animal. Have your child get up and show you how each animal walks or moves.



Arts and Crafts... Use clay or playdoh to make animal shapes. Create a zoo with cardboard boxes, felt, fabrics, and other found objects from around the house. Play "Goodnight Gorilla" and act out the story with your animals.

Rhyme

Hickery, Dickery, Dare

Hickery, dickery, dare,
The pig flew up in the air.

The man in brown
Soon brought him down!
Hickery, dickery, dare.

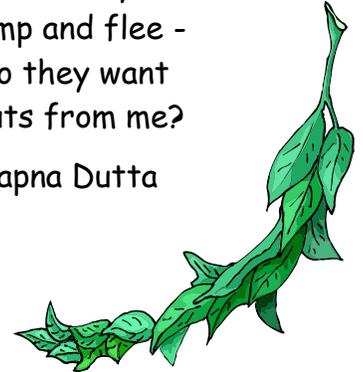


Poem

Swinging Monkey

Look up there
And you will see
The monkeys swinging
From the tree
I like the way
They jump and flee -
Now, do they want
Some nuts from me?

By Swapna Dutta



What your library can do for you...

Your youth services librarian can suggest books and activities that help you support your child's learning at home. They can help you find books that have different types of print to help your child develop print awareness.

Funding for this project is made possible by the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me program, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under a provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.

