



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



Charlie Cook's Favorite Book, by Julia Donaldson, illustrations by Axel Scheffler



This story is a circular tale. The story begins with Charlie Cook, then each new character reads about the next, and the story ends with Charlie Cook again. Illustrator Axel Scheffler has created pages full of detailed pictures for children to explore, so that each time you read the story with your child there is something new to discover!

Choose Books



More great books by this author-illustrator team:

The Gruffalo

The Gruffalo's Child

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

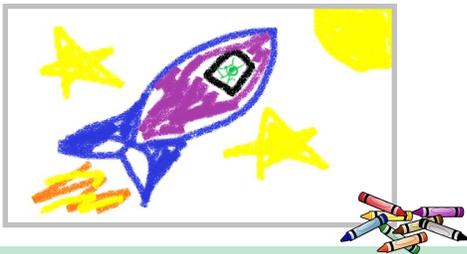


Studies show that when parents and caregivers talk with their children throughout the day, those children learn more words and are better able to learn to read. Asking your child questions about her day, explaining what you're doing as you do it, and talking about what you see as you're out and about 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. Give your child some crayons and paper and let her draw something from the story. Ask her to tell you about it. Help her write her name on the picture.



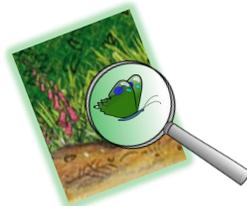
Play



I Spy... 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



I Like to Go to School!

To the tune of "Farmer in the Dell"

I like to go to school.
I like to go to school.
Heigh-ho-the-derry-oh,
I like to go to school.

I like to sing new songs.
I like to sing new songs.
Heigh-ho-the-derry-oh,
I like to sing new songs.

Additional verses:

I like to play with friends...

I like to read my books...

I like to build with blocks...

I like to draw with crayons...

Make up your own verses!

Listen to The Farmer in the Dell at:

<https://kidsongs.com/lyrics/the-farmer-in-the-dell.html/>



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!