



For ages
3-5

The Bookworm

From your
local library
and Idaho's Read
to Me program
November 2011



Family Reading Week: November 13–19

Family Reading Week is an annual statewide celebration of reading as a family activity. The theme this year is "Let the Games Begin @ your library." Libraries and schools across the state are planning exciting events celebrating family play and literacy.

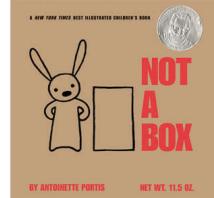
Playtime is special. Not only is it fun, it is critical to how well your child grows and develops. Play is a child's "work" and their way of learning about the world around them. Through play, young children try out new skills, explore their imagination and creativity, and learn about relationships with other people.

You are your child's favorite playmate! Playing with your child helps him develop early reading skills, improve vocabulary words and language, practice early math skills, and learn to solve everyday problems. On the back are some ways to make the most of your child's playtime at home.

There are lots of ways to play at your library. The library is a place the whole family can enjoy. In addition to reading and storytimes, many libraries offer game nights, arts and crafts, workshops, kids' clubs, adult clubs, teen programs, computer access, video games, movies, music, and more...at no cost!

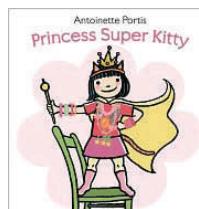
Book of the Month

Not a Box, by Antoinette Portis



A box is just a box... unless it's not a box. From mountain to rocket ship, a small rabbit shows that a box will go as far as the imagination allows. Your child will love entering the world inside a cardboard box, where anything is possible!

Here are some other Antoinette Portis books that support imagination and play:



Not a Stick, A Penguin Story, Kindergarten Diary
New in October 2011!
Princess Super Kitty

More books that encourage imagination and play:

Harold and the Purple Crayon, by Crockett Johnson. Harold and his crayon go out for a walk and their travels are limited only by Harold's imagination. (series of Harold books)

Meeow and the Big Box, by Sebastian Braun. Meeow finds lots of ways to play with a big box. (series of Meeow books)

Pete's a Pizza, by William Steig. Pete's parents turn him into a human pizza to get him out of his bad mood.



More fun with Not a Box

Fun and games... Fix-It-Up Fun. Use a large cardboard box as a workbench. On top, place your "tools"—wooden spoons, whisks, a fork and spoon, a measuring tape, etc. Then ask your child to choose a toy to "fix," using the tools to fix the toy. Role-playing games like this develop symbolic thinking and pretend play skills.

Math connections... Developing a sense of size and shape is an important math skill. Set out an empty box. Find 3-4 items of different sizes. Ask your preschooler: "Do you think Teddy will fit in this box?" After she responds, ask her to try it. "Do you think this block will fit in the box?" Once your child gets pretty good at this skill, ask, "How many blocks do you think will fit in this box?" (Let child respond.) "Let's find out."

Arts and crafts... Have boxes sitting around? See how to make a box town, a guitar, a tiny puppet theater, and more!

www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/box/

Song to sing with your child:

This Old Man

This old man, he played one,
He played knick knack with his thumb,
With a knick, knack, paddy whack,
Give the dog a bone;
This old man came rolling home.

This old man, he played two,
He played knick knack on my shoe,
With a knick, knack, ...

Three, on his knee	Eight, on my gate
Four, on the door	Nine, rise and shine
Five, jazz and jive	Ten, in my den
Six, with his sticks	Eleven, up in heaven
Seven, with a pen	Twelve, on the shelves

Hear the tune: [bussongs.com/songs/
knick_knack_paddy_whack.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/knick_knack_paddy_whack.php)

Support playtime at home...

Inviting a friend over to play or visiting the neighborhood park provide great opportunities to help children learn to share and resolve conflicts.

Songs like "Freeze" and "Hokey-Pokey" offer opportunities to listen and follow directions, while teaching about words and sounds.

Quiet activities such as looking at books, listening to stories, and drawing pictures all build children's imagination and language skills.

Encouraging "pretend" play lets your child try out skills and roles they see from adults. Provide dress-up clothes, play "store", let your child serve you pizza or tea, and let them write your order down on paper.

At this age children can begin playing simple board games such as Candy Land™, Chutes and Ladders™, and Memory games.

Join in! As you play, help children expand and build on their ideas. Help them find ways to write, such as making signs or menus.



What your library can do for you...

Ask your librarian about special events and programs planned for Family Reading Week, November 13–19.

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