



Age Group  
**Kinders**

# 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.

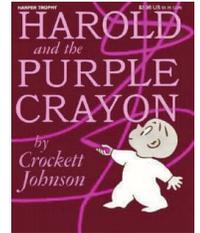
Playtime is special. Not only is it fun, it is critical to how well your child grows and develops. Play is a child's "work" and their way of learning about the world around them. Through play, young children try out new skills, explore their imagination and creativity, and learn about relationships with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

### *Harold and the Purple Crayon*, by Crockett Johnson



One night when Harold is not sleepy he decides to go for a walk with his purple crayon. He uses his crayon to draw himself into many adventures, and his imagination takes him to all kinds of interesting places. This classic story was first published in 1955 and is still a childhood favorite!

Crockett Johnson is the author and illustrator of five books about Harold and The Purple Crayon.

- Harold's Fairy Tale*
- Harold's Trip to the Sky*
- Harold at the North Pole*
- Harold's Circus*
- A Picture for Harold's Room*

### More books that encourage imagination and play:

*Not a Box and Not a Stick*, by Antoinette Portis. To an imaginative bunny, a box is not always just a box, and a stick is not always just a stick.

*Where the Wild Things Are*, by Maurice Sendak. A little boy sent to bed without his supper uses his imagination to sail to the land of the wild things, where he becomes their king.

*My Chair*, by Betsy James. A group of children celebrate their various chairs and their imaginations as they gather to welcome a new neighbor.



## More fun with *Harold and the Purple Crayon*

**Problem solving...** Give your child a piece of paper and a crayon (it doesn't have to be purple) and have her pretend to be Harold. Present a problem and ask her to draw a solution. For example, "Harold's mom forgot to pack a snack today."

**Arts and crafts...** On a blank piece of paper, draw a squiggly line or the beginning of a shape. Ask your child to use his imagination to finish the drawing. You can play, too!



**What do you know?** Help your child find out how a crayon is made. Look for books at your library, such as:

*How Is a Crayon Made?* by Oz Charles  
*Wax to Crayons*, Inez Snyder

### Song to sing with your child: Somewhere over the Rainbow

Somewhere over the rainbow  
Way up high,  
There's a land that I heard of  
Once in a lullaby.  
Somewhere over the rainbow  
Skies are blue,  
And the dreams that you dare to dream  
Really do come true.

Someday I'll wish upon a star  
And wake up where the clouds are far behind me.  
Where troubles melt like lemon drops  
Away above the chimney tops  
That's where you'll find me.

Somewhere over the rainbow  
Bluebirds fly,  
Birds fly over the rainbow.  
Why then, oh why can't I?  
If happy little bluebirds fly  
Beyond the rainbow  
Why, oh why can't I?

Hear the tune at  
[http://nurseryrhymes4u.com/NURSERY\\_RHYMES/Page\\_955.html](http://nurseryrhymes4u.com/NURSERY_RHYMES/Page_955.html)

## 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.
- ☺ Play simple board games and card games with your child. These build reading, math, and problem-solving skills.
- ☺ 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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