



For grades
K-1

The Bookworm



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

October 2010

Awareness of Print

Being familiar with printed language helps children feel comfortable with books and understand that print is useful. It is one of the six early literacy skills that help young children become readers.

Here are some ways to help your child develop print awareness:

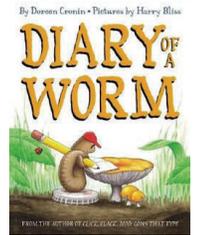
- Show children that print is all around them. Point it out in signs, on menus, and in books and newspapers.
- Occasionally run your finger along the bottom of words while reading. This helps children understand that print runs from left to right and that you are reading text rather than looking at pictures.
- 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 why 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; menus list food choices, a book tells a story, a sign can show a favorite restaurant or warn of danger.

Book of the Month

Diary of a Worm, by Doreen Cronin

Your child will laugh out loud at this glimpse into the life of a worm in these hilarious diary entries. Difficulties such as having no arms, having a head that looks a lot like your rear end, and facing the dangers of people digging for bait are balanced by a loving family and good friends.



Author Doreen Cronin has written several funny book series, including:

The companions to *Diary of a Worm*:
Diary of a Spider, *Diary of a Fly*

Farmer Brown books: *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*; *Giggle, Giggle, Quack*; *Dooby Dooby Moo*; and more...

Here are some other good books to help your child develop **print awareness**:

Tops and Bottoms, Janet Stevens

Robot Zot, Jon Scieszka

Dear Peter Rabbit, and *Yours Truly, Goldilocks*,
Alma Flor Ada

Edwina, the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct, Mo Willems

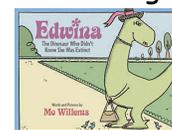
Traction Man is Here, Mini Grey

Put It On the List, Kristen Darbyshire

Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School,



Mark Teague



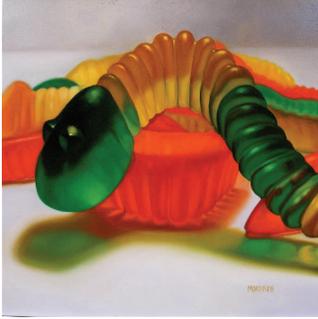
More fun with *Diary of a Worm*

Science and nature... Dig up a worm and bring it indoors on a piece of paper. Observe the worm together and ask some of these questions: How does the worm's skin feel? How does the worm move? Can a worm move backward? Have your child draw a picture of the worm before placing it back in the yard, preferably in a nice, cool, dirty spot!

Math connections...

"Gummy Worm Math."

Lay out a line of pennies. Help your child measure how long a gummy worm is, such as five pennies long. Then ask your child to guess how many pennies long a gummy worm can stretch. Write down the prediction. Then help your child measure as she stretches the gummy worm to the breaking point. Write down the number and compare it to her guess. You can ask questions such as, "Was your guess more or less than the actual length? How many more (or less)? How many cents would your gummy worm's length be worth?"



Just the facts... Visit your local library to find some information books about worms. Your librarian can help you find age-appropriate books with lots of pictures that will appeal to your child.



Two Great Worm Websites!

Worm World: This site has cool video clips, facts, photos, and more!

<http://yucky.discovery.com/noflash/worm/>

The Adventures of Herman the Worm: Get all the dirt on worms including worm facts, games, and stories in English and Spanish.

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/worms/>

Song

The Worm Went Through the Apple

by Barbara Pratt

*To the tune of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow"
or "The Bear Went Over the Mountain"*

The Worm went through the apple,
The Worm went through the apple,
The Worm went through the apple,
To see what he could see.

And all that he could see,
And all that he could see,

Was the other side of the apple,
The other side of the apple,
The other side of the apple

Was all that he could see!



What your library can do for you...

Most libraries offer special programs for children, free of charge. Storytimes or special events for young children allow "together time" with fun activities and stories. Ask your librarian about programs offered at your local public library.

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