



For ages  
**3-5**

# The Bookworm



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

**February 2013**

## Awareness of Print

Being familiar with printed words 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:**

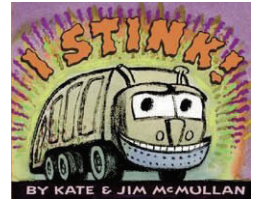
- Show children that print is all around them. Point it out in signs, on menus, and in books and newspapers.
- Run your finger along the bottom of words while reading. This helps children understand that print runs from left to right and that you are reading text rather than looking at pictures.
- Point 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 (see page 2).
- Encourage children to play with print every day. Help them make lists, write notes, make signs, etc.

## Book of the Month

***I Stink!* by Kate and Jim McMullan**

Ever wonder what it's like to be a garbage truck? What fun it is to keep the city clean by eating a special recipe of alphabet soup containing everything from apple cores and banana peels to ziti and zucchini!

If your child likes this book, check out some others by the McMullans:



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.

**Kinds of books that develop print awareness:**

- Books with lots of punctuation marks (such as *I Stink!*)
- Books with signs, lists, labels, menus, charts, instructions, etc. as part of the illustrations
- Books in which characters are using print in different ways, such as writing a letter, or making a checklist
- Books with speech bubbles
- Any book!



## More fun with *I Stink!*

**Print awareness...** As you read the story with your child, point out the words on the signs and vehicles. Talk about what those words tell us. Also point out the different types of punctuation marks, and show how these clues tell us how to read the words with emotion.

**Arts and crafts...** This activity can be done in short 10–15 minute sessions over several weeks. Staple or tape blank sheets of paper together to form a 26-page booklet. Write or help your child write an upper and lowercase letter for each page. Use old magazines or catalogs and have your child cut or tear out pictures of things that begin with that letter. Glue into the book. Invite your child to “read” the book when it is finished!

**Out and about...** To help your child become aware of print, take a walk through your neighborhood and point out things with print on them: stop signs, street signs, businesses, newsstands, bus stops, etc. Help your child read the words.



### Action Rhyme

#### Green Says Go!

*For this rhyme you will need 3 items or paper cutouts that are red, yellow, and green.*

Green says, “GO!” (hold up the color green)

Go! Go! Go! (march in place)

Yellow says, “Slow!” (hold up the color yellow)

Slow...sloooooow...sloooooow (march slowly)

And red says, “Stop!” (hold up the color red)  
(freeze)

(Hold up Green) Go! Go! Go!

(Hold up Yellow) Slow...sloooooow...sloooooow

(Hold up Red) STOP! (everybody freeze!)



## Song to sing with your child

To the Tune of: Where is Thumbkin?

Where is Garbage Truck?

Where is Garbage Truck?

Here I am. Here I am.

How are you today, sir?

Very well, I thank you.

Drive away. Drive away.

Repeat with Tow Truck, Dump Truck, Moving Truck, Fire Truck, etc.)



### What your library can do for you...

Your library, in cooperation with the Idaho Commission for Libraries, now offers free “storytimes online” every day of the year. Each day features an online book to read with your child, as well as songs, rhymes, fingerplays, videos, crafts, and other activities that you can access from a computer or Smartphone. Visit today!

**DayByDayID.org**

STORYTIMES ONLINE

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