What is Early Literacy?

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 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: Birth to 2; Preschool (3-5); and Kindergarten. You can find more Bookworms, as well as versions in Spanish, at [http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/bookworm](http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/bookworm).

Reading Tips for Parents

- 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.

Book of the Month

**Charlie Cook’s Favorite Book, by Julia Donaldson**

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!

Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler have teamed up on these other great books:

- *The Gruffalo*
- *The Gruffalo’s Child*
- *The Smartest Giant in Town*
- *Tabby McTat*
- *Tiddler*
- *Zog*
- *Stick Man*
- *Monkey Puzzle*
- *The Snail and the Whale*
- *Room on the Broom*
- *A Squash and a Sneeze*

Do you know the Gruffalo? Check him out at [www.gruffalo.com](http://www.gruffalo.com)

Other great activities found at [www.juli donaldson.co.uk](http://www.juli donaldson.co.uk)
More fun with *Charlie Cook’s Favorite Book*

**I spy**… There are lots of things in these illustrations for your child to "spy." Each time you read the book together you will notice something new! Here are some things to help your child look for: Titles of the books at the top of each left-hand page and titles of chapters at the top of each right-hand page; the pearl necklace on the pirate page keeps showing up throughout the book; the books on the pages before the story begins and after it ends (end pages). What else can you find?

**Same and different**… Have your child look again at the first scene of Charlie in his chair and the last scene of Charlie at the end. What is the same? What is different?

**Music and Movement**… Sharing songs, rhymes, and fingerplays with your young child helps develop important early literacy skills. Clapping to a beat can help your child separate words later, and rhymes help your child learn about word parts. Try the rhymes and songs in the *Bookworms* at home.

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**Rhyme**

*Read to Me*

by author Jane Yolen

Read to me riddles and read to me rhymes.
Read to me stories of magical times.
Read to me tales about castles and kings.
Read to me stories of fabulous things.
Read to me pirates and read to me knights.
Read to me dragons and dragon-book fights.
Read to me spaceships and cowboys and then
When you are finished—please read them again.

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**Song**

*I Like to Go to School!*

*(To the tune of Farmer in the Dell)*

To hear Farmer in the Dell, go to

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!

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

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!

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