Family Reading Week: November 15—21

Many parents become library users when their children are toddlers and preschoolers. Many also know how important it is to read aloud to children in order to support their reading development. However, as their children get older and become readers themselves, parents often depend more on teachers for reading support, and become less aware of how libraries can continue to support their children and themselves through the years.

There’s so much to see and do 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!

Family Reading Week is an annual statewide celebration of reading as a family activity. The theme this year is “Idaho is Wild About Reading!” Libraries across the state are planning exciting nature-themed events. Whether you plan to hike the trail to your local library or camp out at home, we hope your family enjoys time reading books together!

Book of the Month

Animal Tracks, by Arthur Dorros

This interactive parent-child book introduces the tracks and signs left by various woodland animals. Children will especially like learning how to “trap” nighttime footprints!

More great nature books:

More Fun With Nature, by Mel Boring (6 guides in one)

50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth, the Earthworks Group

The Kids’ Nature Book: 365 Indoor/Outdoor Activities and Experiences, by Susan Milord

Great nature authors:

Jim Arnosky
Steve Jenkins
Jean Craighead George
Eric Carle
Nancy Tafuri

Just for Grown-ups

Does your child have “nature deficit disorder?”

Check out Last Child in the Woods, by Richard Louv, for great ideas about how to re-connect your child to the great outdoors.
More fun with Animal Tracks

Out and about... Go on a scavenger hunt around your neighborhood. Can you find the following?

- A sign left by an animal, such as a chewed leaf or animal track
- An animal that is eating
- A creature that is furry
- A creature with feathers
- An animal that is quiet? An animal that is loud?

World Wide Web... Here are some great internet sites for nature activities. Tip: Your library has free internet access!

- Be Outside Campaign: www.visitidaho.org/children-in-nature/
- National Wildlife Federation: www.nwf.org/outside/
- Author Jim Arnosky: www.jimarnosky.com/
- Kids Planet: (very fun games!) www.kidsplanet.org/games/

Why Kids Need Non-Fiction

- Information books and magazines can play an important part in motivating children to read.
- There are some great, high-quality information books available now for children of all ages.
- Many kids enjoy information books as much as story books.
- Non-fiction can be a way for parents to share their interests with their children.
- Information books expose children to special vocabulary and concepts, which helps build language.
- Reading non-fiction now can help children prepare for reading these types of books later in life.

What your library can do for you...

Ask your librarian about special events and programs planned for Family Reading Week, November 15—21.

Song

“A Camping We Will Go”
(sung to Farmer in the Dell)

A camping we will go,
A camping we will go.
Hi ho we’re off to the woods.
A camping we will go.

Ellie will bring the tent.
Oh Ellie will bring the tent.
Hi ho we’re off to the woods
A camping we will go.

Juan will bring the food.
Oh Juan will bring the food.
Hi ho we’re off to the woods
A camping we will go.

Continue with more items and children’s names...

Funding for this project is made possible by the Idaho Commission for Libraries’ Read to Me program, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under a provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Printed 2009