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 Babies: A Counting Book, by Daniel Moreton

Children love looking at animals, especially baby animals. The simple text and bright photographs in this book will help your little one get “wild about reading!”

More board books about animals:
We’ve All Got Bellybuttons, David Martin
How Do You Make a Baby Smile? Philemon Sturgis
Look at the Animals, by Peter Linenthal
Whose Chick Are You? Nancy Tafuri
Time for Bed, Mem Fox

Board Books About Nature

First the Egg, Laura Vaccaro Seeger (Caldecott Honor)
Who Lives Here, Maggie Silver
The Mitten, Jan Brett

My Garden/Mi Jardin, Rebecca Emberley
If You Were My Baby: A Wildlife Lullaby, Fran Hodgkins
Biscuit’s Walk in the Woods, Alyssa Satin Capucilli
More fun with *Animal Babies*

Talk about it… As you read the pages, talk about the animals using lots of describing words: “Look at the baby raccoons— they have black and white faces. The baby rabbits look very soft and fluffy.”

Toddlers can point to body parts in the pictures: “Let’s find all the baby animals’ eyes in the book. Where are the seal’s eyes? Where are the bears’ eyes?”

Older toddlers can begin to count small amounts. Help your toddler point to each baby animal as you count out loud.

Out and about… Go for a walk or hike, and look for other baby animals, such as kittens, or puppies.

Visit your library… Children love books about animals. Look for more board books with pictures of animals at your library.

---

**Song**

*I like Baby Animals*  
*Sung to: “London Bridge”*

I like baby animals,  
Animals, animals.  
I like baby animals,  
Let’s name a few.

Kittens, puppies, chicks and foals,  
Chicks and foals, chicks and foals.  
Kittens, puppies, chicks and foals,  
Let’s name some more.

Goslings, ducklings, lambs and calves,  
Lambs and calves, lambs and calves.  
Goslings, ducklings, lambs and calves,  
I like baby animals!

---

**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.