

Did you know...



Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing *before* they actually learn to read and write. Reading with your little ones every day and teaching them about the world around them are practices that help prepare children to learn to read later on. You can start at birth!

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/bookworm>.

Here's how...

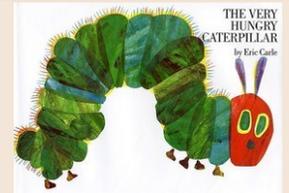


- ✦ Make book-sharing a special time between you and your child. Get comfortable and cozy!
- ✦ Begin reading books early, even when your child is a newborn.
- ✦ Let your child see you reading and enjoying reading.
- ✦ Visit your public library often.
- ✦ Let toddlers choose the books they want to read or have read to them.
- ✦ Very young children have a short attention span, so keep reading activities brief and fun. Don't worry about finishing a story.
- ✦ Share rhymes and songs that young children enjoy. Keeping books fun will keep them coming back for more.

Read

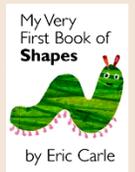
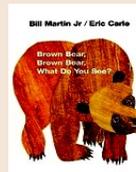


***The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, by Eric Carle**



This all-time favorite follows a hungry caterpillar as it grows from egg to cocoon to beautiful butterfly, eating his way right through the pages!

More board books from Eric Carle:



Find a complete list of books at www.eric-carle.com or your library.

Choose Books



A word about board books...

Babies explore their world by putting things into their mouths, including books! This is normal and board books are made for little hands and mouths because they are harder to damage than other books.

Pages of board books are sturdy, the pictures are simple and clear, and the designs are bright and fun.

Clean board books with a little soap and water and wipe them dry. Store books where your baby or toddler can easily reach them on his or her own, such as a basket or low shelf.

Talk



Research shows that the more you talk with your baby or toddler, the better reader she will be later on. "Reading" with your little one can just be showing her the pictures in the books and talking about what you see. "Oh, look at all these strawberries. They're red and green, and the caterpillar is going to eat them up!"



Write



In order for your child to learn to write later on, he needs to practice tiny movements with his fingers. Let your toddler tear up different kinds of paper into little pieces, the littler the better! If you like, you can help him make a collage with the pieces. Smear a glue stick on some cardboard or other paper and let him stick the pieces on. This is how Eric Carle makes his pictures.

Sing



The Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy bitsy spider crawled up the water spout.
Down came the rain and washed the spider out.
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain.
And the itsy bitsy spider crawled up the spout again.

Now try this one, using the same tune:

The little caterpillar crawled up into a tree.
Spun his cocoon and slept so quietly.
All through the winter he didn't make a sound.
He dreamt of his new life when he could fly around.

While he was sleeping the snow did gently fall.
Winter came and went, then he heard the robin's call.
Come on, Mr. Butterfly, out of your cocoon.
Spread your wings and fly for me, while I sing my tune.



(Brooklyn Public Library "First Five Years")

You can find the Itsy Bitsy Spider song at

www.thelearninggroove.com

Play



Action Rhyme for Babies

(Kiss baby's body parts)

Kissy, kissy fingers; kissy, kissy toes.

Kissy, kissy baby on your kissy, kissy nose.

I love to kiss your fingers, I love to kiss your toes,

I love to kiss my baby,

On his/her kissy, kissy nose!

Fingerplay for Toddlers

"Storytime"

When the sun lights up the sky,

(wave arms above head)

I sit right up and rub my eyes.

(rub eyes)

I dress myself with greatest care,

(pretend to step into pants)

I brush my teeth and comb my hair.

(pretend to brush teeth and comb hair)

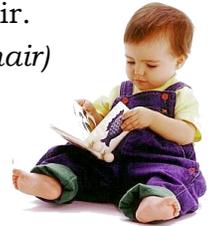
Then off to story hour I go,

(march in place)

To hear the stories

that I love so.

(open hands like a book)



At your library...



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!