

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: Babies/Toddlers, 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...

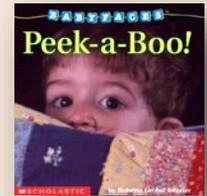


- ✦ Make book-sharing a special time between you and your child. Get comfortable and cozy!
- ✦ Begin reading books early, even when your child is a newborn.
- ✦ Let your child see you reading and enjoying reading.
- ✦ Visit your public library often.
- ✦ Let toddlers choose the books they want to read 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



Peek-a-Boo (Baby Faces series), by Roberta Grobel Intrator



Babies and toddlers love playing peek-a-boo, and will love looking at the photos of children in this colorful board book. The simple words help identify the expression on each child's face, which is an important skill to learn at this age. Look for other books in the award-winning Baby Faces series, which includes *Smile*, *Splash*, *Hugs and Kisses*; and others. This series is also available in Spanish.



Choosing 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



“Reading” with a baby or toddler is more about talking and pointing to the pictures than actually reading. See this video about reading to your baby: <http://tinyurl.com/readingtobaby>

Ready to Write



Make your own book... You will need an old photo album from around the house or from a thrift/dollar store or yard sale. Insert photos of your baby/toddler and use stickers or file labels to write a caption such as “Happy,” or “Sleepy.” You could also make a book of your family, labeling “Dad,” or “cat.” Your child will love “reading” these books with you over and over again. Helping you turn the pages will develop the little muscles in your child’s hands, which will be needed in order to hold a pencil later on.

Play



Playing peek-a-boo with your little one helps her brain grow. Ways to play: cover your eyes, put a towel over your face, put your toddler’s hands over his face and then take them away; draw a face on your thumb and hide it under your other fingers; put a toy or stuffed animal under a blanket, then take the blanket away. Say “peek-a-boo” each time. This game helps your child learn that you (or an object) do not disappear when he or she cannot see you.

Action Song for Toddlers

I’m a Little Teapot

I’m a little teapot, short and stout.

Here is my handle (*put hand on hip*),
here is my spout (*put other hand up and out*).

When I get all steamed up, hear me shout!

Just tip me over (*tip and balance on one leg*),
and pour me out.



Sing



Did You Ever See a Baby?

Tune: Did You Ever See a Lassie?

(Holding baby on your lap, gently sway from side to side)

Did you ever see a baby, a baby, a baby?

Did you ever see a baby go this way and that?

Go this way and that way,
and this way and that way.

Did you ever see a baby go this way and that?

(Holding baby, gently bounce up and down.)

Did you ever see a baby, a baby, a baby?

Did you ever see a baby bounce
this way and that?

Bounce this way and that way,
and this way and that way.

Did you ever see a baby bounce
this way and that?

To see a video of this song, visit
www.youtube.com/birth2six



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!