



For ages  
**3-5**

# The Bookworm



From your  
local library  
and Idaho's Read  
to Me program

**February 2014**

## Vocabulary

**Vocabulary** is knowing the names of things. This is a very important skill for children to have when they are learning to read. Most children enter school knowing between 3,000 and 5,000 words.

**Why is it important for children to hear a wide range of words?**

Children need to know the meaning of words to understand what they are reading.

When you think about it, you know that you are reading a word correctly if you have heard it before. The more words children hear, the more ready they will be to make connections between sounding out words and knowing they're pronouncing them correctly.

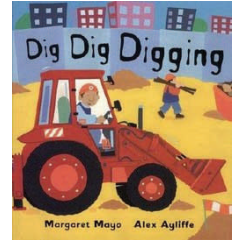
**The best way to help your children build vocabulary is to talk and read with them.**

- Studies show that children whose parents talk to them a lot, better understand what they read.
- Talk to your child about what is going on around you. Talk about how things work, feelings and ideas. Listen when your child talks to you.
- Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you.
- Read to your child every day. Children's books have more rare words than everyday conversations. Talk about the stories and the pictures in books.
- Learn together by reading information books. Help your child pick out books about the things he or she is interested in.

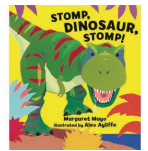
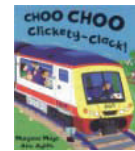
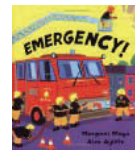
## Book of the Month

*Dig, Dig, Digging*, by  
**Margaret Mayo**

Bold, bright pages contain visual word poems about large trucks, tractors, and cranes and the work they do. Often the shape of the rhyme shows the action performed by the machine. A great book to share with your curious child!



*Check out some other books by the author:*



## Good Books to Build Vocabulary

*Bird Songs*, by Betsy Franco

*Busy Body Book*, by Lizzie Rockwell

*The Construction Crew*, by Lynn Meltzer

*One Red Apple*, by Harriet Ziefert

*Think Big*, by Elizabeth Garton Scanlon

*Up, Down, and Around*, by Katherine Ayers

*Up, Tall, and High*, by Ethan Long



## More fun with *Dig, Dig, Digging*

**Math connection...** Sorting a collection of cars, trucks, trains, etc. is an excellent way to begin looking at how objects are "alike" and "different." Choose a car/truck from the collection. Ask your child, "Can you find one that is the same (size, color, shape, number of wheels, etc.) as mine?"

**Movin' and groovin'...** Help your young child build words while also getting some energy out. Ask her to act out words in the book, such as digging, spinning, squashing, tipping. Put some music on if you like, or join in the fun!

**Arts and crafts...** Make a book of cars, trucks, and other vehicles. Help your child tear or cut out pictures from magazines, catalogs, or advertisements. Staple several sheets of paper together on one side to make the book pages, then help your child glue the pictures inside. Write the name of the vehicle on the page (tractor, fire engine, car).

### Action Rhyme

If I were an airplane *(spread arms wide)*  
I would fly up in the sky. *(arms out, lean right/left)*  
If I were a tricycle *(pump legs like pedaling)*  
I would wave as I went by. *(wave)*  
If I were a dump truck *(hand on same shoulder)*  
I would dump my heavy load. *(let hand fall open)*  
But if I were a car or bus  
I'd roll on down the road. *(roll hands)*  
If I were a choo-choo train *(hands close to sides)*  
Along the tracks I'd chug. *(push-pull with arms)*  
And if I were a steam shovel *(hands near knees)*  
I would have a big hole dug. *(scoop with hands)*  
If I were a helicopter *(whirl hands over head)*  
I'd sing a whirly tune. *(make whirring noise)*  
But if I were a rocket ship *(palms together)*  
I'd blast off to the moon! *(shoot hands upward)*

## Why Kids Need Nonfiction

- Information books and magazines play an important part in motivating children to read.
- Many kids enjoy information books as much as story books.
- Nonfiction can be a way for parents to share their interests with their children.
- Information books expose children to special words and concepts, which helps build language.
- Reading nonfiction now can help children prepare for reading these types of books later in life.



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

Your library, in cooperation with the Idaho Commission for Libraries, now offers free "storytimes online" every day of the year. Each day features an online book to read with your child, as well as songs, rhymes, fingerplays, videos, crafts, and other activities that you can access from a computer or Smartphone. Visit today!

**DayByDayID.org**  
STORYTIMES ONLINE

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