Read to Me

Age Group
Kinders

The Bookworm

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

September 2012

A Child's Love of Reading Starts With You

Developing a love of reading, or **print motivation**, is one of the six early literacy skills that help children become readers in school. Researchers have found that children who enjoy books are more likely to stick with learning to read. The way we share books with children can help their enjoyment of books. To be motivated to read, kids need to:

- see reading as a fun and enjoyable activity.
- see reading as a social act to be shared with others.
- see reading as a chance to explore their interests.
- read for many purposes; from enjoyment to gathering information.
- become comfortable with different kinds and types of writing.
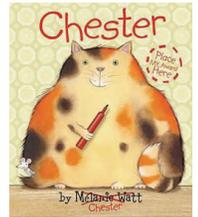
You can help develop print motivation in your school-age child by:

- making book-sharing a special time between you and your child. Get comfortable and cozy!
- letting your child see you reading and enjoying reading.
- visiting your public library often.
- letting children choose the books they want to read or have read to them.
- giving books as gifts.
- making reading time fun, not a chore.

Book of the Month
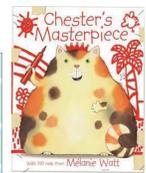
Chester, **by Mélanie Watt (and Chester)**

Who is really in charge of writing this book? Mélanie starts out with the story of a mouse. Then her cat, Chester, sends the mouse packing and rewrites the story with his marker. The two authors take turns teasing each other with their illustrations, sending the reader into fits of giggles. Who will get the last word?

Other Chester books:

Chester's Back

Chester's Masterpiece

Canadian author and illustrator, Mélanie Watt, has also written several other children's books. Here are a few:

The *Scaredy Squirrel* series features a squirrel who doesn't have much confidence in his skills, and has to figure things out as he goes.

You're Finally Here! Although Bunny is excited to finally have a reader open his book, he has been very impatient with the long wait.

Augustine is Moving to the North Pole. A young penguin uses her love of art to help her adjust to a new home. Also available in Spanish.

More fun with *Chester*

Talk about it… Ask your child to tell their own story about Mouse. "Once upon a time there was a mouse. He lived in a house in the country…." Have your child finish this off, imagining what story Mélanie was actually trying to tell us.

Arts and crafts… Give your child a red marker, crayon, or colored pencil, and some blank sheets of paper. Ask her to draw something she remembers about the story.

Write on… In the story, Chester stands for:

Charming
Handsome
Envy of Mouse
Smart
Talented
Envy of Mélanie
Really handsome

Ask your child to write out his name like Chester's above, and help him find a word that describes him for each letter.

Song to sing with your child

K-I-T-T-Y

(To the tune of "B-I-N-G-O")

There was a lady had a cat
And Kitty was his name-o.
K-I-T-T-Y, K-I-T-T-Y, K-I-T-T-Y,
And Kitty was his name-o.

As you sing the other verses, take away one letter for each verse and clap instead of saying the missing letter until all are gone.

Action Rhyme
(Adapted traditional rhyme)

Match actions to words:

Kitty cat, kitty cat,
Turn around.
Kitty cat, kitty cat,
Sit on the ground.
Kitty cat, kitty cat,
Lick your paws.
Kitty cat, kitty cat,
Show those claws!
Kitty cat, kitty cat,
Stretch in the sun.
Kitty cat, kitty cat,
Run, run, run!
Kitty cat, kitty cat,
See the moonlight.
Kitty cat, kitty cat,
Say goodnight.

What your library can do for you…

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!

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