



For ages
**Birth
to 2**

The Bookworm

From your
local library
and Idaho's Read
to Me program
September 2013

What is Early Literacy?

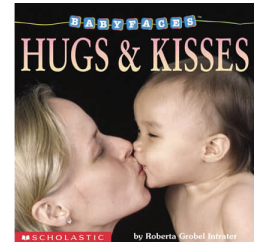
Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing *before* they actually learn to read and write. Helping your child develop early literacy skills will build a foundation for reading so that when they are taught to read they are ready. You can start at birth!

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. 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

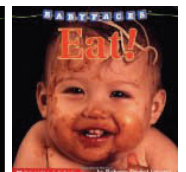
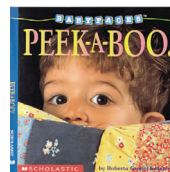
<http://libraries.idaho.gov/bookworm>.

Book of the Month

Hugs and Kisses, by
Roberta Grobel Intrater
(Baby Faces series)



Babies and toddlers 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*, *Peek-a-Boo*, and others. This series is also available in Spanish.



10 good reasons to read to babies:

1. Baby associates your voice with warmth, comfort, and security.
2. Reading has a calming effect on a restless baby.
3. Baby is entertained by nursery rhymes and songs.
4. Holding the baby while reading to him/her creates a close, loving bond between parent and baby.
5. Baby makes an association between reading and being held.
6. The pleasure of being held transfers to the desire to be read to.
7. Baby will learn to listen and will grow up ready to read.
8. Baby will begin imitating sounds and words.
9. Baby must hear English (or French, Spanish or other languages) in order to learn that language.
10. It's fun to read to a baby!



More fun with *Hugs and Kisses*...

Make your own book... Babies and toddlers love looking at photos of people. Find an old photo album from around the house or from a thrift/dollar store or yard sale. Insert photos of your baby or toddler and family or friends. Label stickers with "Dad," or "Cousin Sam." Your child will love "reading" these books with you over and over again!

Out and about... Take this book or others with you in your travel bag. Pull it out at the doctor's office, the restaurant, the grocery store, the car or bus, Grandma's house, the park, anytime you're on the move!



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.

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!



Action song for toddlers

Sharing songs, rhymes, and fingerplays with your young child helps develop important early literacy skills. Clapping to a beat can help your child separate words later, and rhymes help your child learn about word parts. Try the rhymes and songs in the *Bookworms* at home with your child.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes

(Touch each body part as you sing it)

Head, shoulders, knees and toes,
knees and toes.

Head, shoulders, knees and toes,
knees and toes,

And eyes and ears and mouth and nose.

Head, shoulders, knees and toes,
knees and toes.

(Repeat, getting faster each time)

You can find this song at
www.learninggamesforkids.com



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!

Funding for this project is made possible by the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me program, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under a provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Printed 2013

