



Age Group  
**Kinders**

# The Bookworm

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

January 2014

## Awareness of Print

Being familiar with printed words helps children feel comfortable with books and understand that print is useful. It is one of the six early literacy skills that help young children become readers.

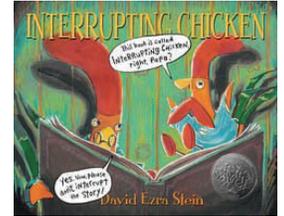
Here are some ways to help your child develop print awareness:

- Show children that print is all around them. Point it out in signs, on menus, and in books and newspapers.
- Run your finger along the bottom of words while reading. This helps children understand that print runs from left to right and that you are reading text rather than looking at pictures.
- Point to some words as you say them, especially words that are repeated.
- Label objects around your home, such as "bed," "window," "door," and "toys."
- Let your child turn the pages. When you are done reading, let her hold the book and tell you the story.
- Talk about and play with punctuation marks. Show your child what an exclamation mark (!) and a question mark (?) are, and why you read those sentences differently.
- Encourage children to play with print every day. Help them make lists, write notes, make signs, etc.

Children with print awareness understand that print has different functions; menus list food choices, a book tells a story, a sign can show a favorite restaurant or warn of danger.

## Book of the Month

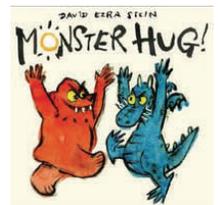
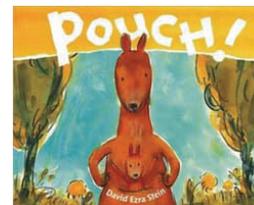
*Interrupting Chicken*,  
written and illustrated  
by David Ezra Stein



Have you ever tried to get through reading a book with your child, only to have them interrupt you every other page? That's what Papa chicken is dealing with as he reads a storybook with his son. This book won a Caldecott Honor in 2011 for its artwork.



David Ezra Stein has written and illustrated lots of other award-winning books, including:



[www.davidezra.com](http://www.davidezra.com)

**Kinds of books that develop print awareness:**

- Books with lots of punctuation marks
- Books with signs, lists, labels, menus, charts, illustrations, etc. as part of the illustrations
- Books in which characters are using print in different ways, such as writing a letter, or making a checklist
- Any book!

## More fun with *Interrupting Chicken*...

**Rare words...** Instead of skipping over bigger words in stories and choosing plain words instead, talk about those words that may not be familiar to your child. There are lots of great words to talk about in this story: interrupt, nibble, involved, relaxing, stray, skipped, panic, and upset.



**Talk about it...** This story also has lots of word bubbles. Point these out to your child and explain that word bubbles are used to show what the character is saying. Also point out the different types of punctuation marks and type, and show how these clues tell us how to read the words with emotion.



### Choosing quality books:

#### American Library Association (ALA) Awards

Though many picture books are considered high-quality for children, choosing award-winning books such as those sponsored by the ALA are a good way to begin introducing your child to the best children's literature.

**The Geisel Award** (Dr. Seuss) is presented each year to the best American book in English for beginning readers.

**The Caldecott Medal** is awarded each year to the artist of the best-illustrated American picture book for children.

Look for these gold or silver medals at your local library.



## Action Song

### The Farmer in the Dell

The farmer in the dell,  
The farmer in the dell,  
Heigh ho the derry-o,  
The farmer in the dell.

The farmer takes a wife,  
The farmer takes a wife,  
Heigh ho the derry-o,  
The farmer takes a wife.

*Repeat with the following:*

The wife takes the child...

The child takes the cow...

The cow takes the pig...

The pig takes the dog...

The dog takes the cat...

The cat takes the mouse...

The mouse takes the cheese...

The cheese stands alone...

This traditional circle game is played with one child as the farmer, standing in the middle of the circle. Children hold hands and walk in a circle as they sing the first verse. The "farmer" then chooses another child as the "wife" to join them in the middle. That child chooses another as the "child" and so on. The "cheese" gets to stand in the circle by itself.

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

You can read hundreds of free online books with your child by visiting your local library's website and clicking on Tumblebooks™.



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