

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 years), and Kindergarten. You can find more "Bookworms," as well as versions in Spanish, at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/>

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

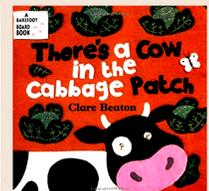
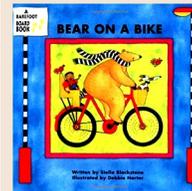


"Baby Talk/ Hablando con bebé" by Stella Blackstone



Babies talk in all kinds of ways - and the people who love them talk back! This board book is perfect for parents and older children to share with babies as they cuddle and form strong bonds.

Other books by the author:



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



In order to hold a pencil later on, young children need to practice tiny movements with their hands and fingers. Movements such as pinching, squeezing, pointing, patting, clapping, and bending fingers will give your baby or toddler practice moving different muscles in their hands.

Sing



Here We Go ‘Round the Mulberry Bush

Here we go ‘round the mulberry bush,
The mulberry bush, the mulberry bush;
Here we go ‘round the mulberry bush
On a cold and frosty morning.

This is the way we wash our hands,
We wash our hands, we wash our hands;
This is the way we wash our hands
On a cold and frosty morning.

Other verses...

This is the way we brush our hair...
This is the way we mend our shoes...
This is the way we scrub our clothes...
This is the way we dust our room...
This is the way we clap our hands...



Hear this song at <https://bussongs.com/songs/here-we-go-round-the-mulberry-bush>

Play



This is the Way the Baby Rides

(Gently bounce baby on knees with each verse)

This is the way the baby rides,
The baby rides, the baby rides.
This is the way the baby rides,
So early in the morning.

This is the way the farmer rides...
This is the way the cowboy rides...

All I Want are Hugs

(Hold your little one in your arms and give a gentle hug every time you say the word “hug”)

All I want are hugs from you,
Hugs to last the whole day through.
Hugs just make me feel so good,
So hug me, hug me, hug me.
Give me lots of hugs today,
Hugs to chase the blues away.
Hugs to last the whole day through,
Just hug me, hug me, hug me!



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!