

## Did you know...



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 aloud with your kindergartener 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: Babies and Toddlers, Preschool, and Kindergarten. You can find more "Bookworms," as well as versions in Spanish, at

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

## Here's how...

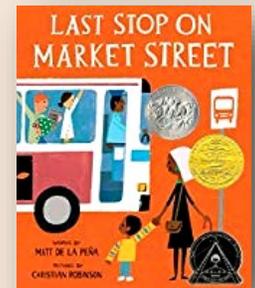


- ❖ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ❖ Keep books and other reading materials where your child can reach them.
- ❖ Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- ❖ Show your child how you read every day for fun and work (novels, newspapers, magazines, etc.).
- ❖ Visit the library or bookstore with your child to attend storytimes and choose books to read at home.

## Read



### "Last Stop on Market Street," by Matt de la Peña



Every Sunday, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? Each question is met with an encouraging answer from Grandma, who helps him see the beauty--and fun--in their world around them.

- Winner of the 2016 Newbery Medal
- A 2016 Caldecott Honor Book
- A 2016 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book
- A *Wall Street Journal* Best Children's Book of 2015

## Choose Books



### Award-Winning Books

Though many picture books are considered high-quality for children, choosing award-winning books, such as those chosen by the American Library Association, cultural groups, well-known publishers, and educational institutions, is a good way to begin sharing the best children's books with your child.

Look for award medals, such as these, on book jackets at your local library.



## Talk



Research shows us that the more we talk with children, the more words they add to their “vocabulary banks.” Children who know and understand thousands of rich words will have an easier time learning to read. Here is an example:

*Meg is hipple when she roffs with her mom.*

A child could sound out the words “hipple” and “roffs” and read the sentence correctly; however, if the child has never heard those words, she will have a difficult time knowing what the sentence means.

As you talk with your child, ask her questions, and help her use lots of describing words.

## Write



Part of learning to write is seeing how print is used in the world around us. Help your child find places in a book’s illustrations where print is used, and talk about its meaning. Look for print as you are out and about with your child, like on road signs, or in restaurants or grocery stores.

## Play



**Stop and Go...** Playing Stop and Go games helps your child learn to control his body. Try this one:

You clap and you clap and you clap and you stop!

*(Do each movement four times)*

You wiggle...

You bounce...

You walk...

You hop...

You spin...



See a video of this game from the King County Library System:

<https://tinyurl.com/kcls-clap-stop>

## Sing



### The Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go ‘round and ‘round,  
‘Round and ‘round, ‘round and ‘round.

The wheels on the bus go ‘round and ‘round,  
All around the town.

*More verses:*

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish...

The people on the bus go up and down...

The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep...

The baby on the bus goes, “wah, wah, wah”...

Hear this song at

[www.thelearninggroove.com/wheels-on-the-bus](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/wheels-on-the-bus)



## 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!