

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.

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 (3-5 years), and Kindergarten. You can find more "Bookworms," as well as versions in Spanish, at

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

Here's how...

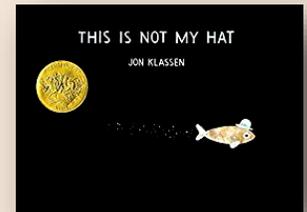


- ✦ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ✦ Keep books and other reading materials where your child can reach them.
- ✦ Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- ✦ Share rhymes and songs that young children enjoy. Keeping books fun will keep them coming back for more.
- ✦ 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



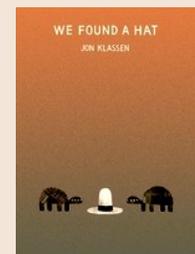
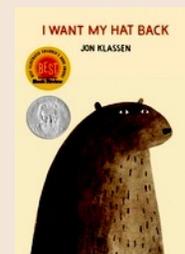
"This Is Not My Hat" by Jon Klassen



When a tiny fish shoots into view

wearing a round blue hat, trouble *could* be following close behind. So it's a good thing that enormous fish won't wake up. And even if he does, it's not like he'll ever know what happened... or will he?

The story continues...look for these books at your public library!



Choosing Books



Award-Winning Books

Though many picture books are considered high-quality for children, selecting 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



When reading picture books with children, almost 95% of their focus is on the pictures. Stop reading occasionally and ask “open-ended” questions about the pictures, those with more than one answer. “We can’t see the fish in the seaweed—what do you think is happening?”

Write



This website has a variety of activities to help your preschooler learn to write. It is most effective to keep these activities fun and a natural part of the day, such as making a grocery list or practicing their name.

www.first-school.ws/theme/handwriting.htm

Sing



Down by the Bay

Down by the bay
Where the watermelons grow
Back to my home
I dare not go
For if I do
My mother will say,
"Did you ever see a bear
Combing his hair,
Down by the bay?"

Repeat, adding different rhymes each time:

Did you ever see a whale
With a polka dot tail?

Now add some of your own rhymes!

Did you ever see a cat, _____

Did you ever see a bug, _____

Did you ever see a dog, _____



Hear this song:

[www.thelearninggroove.com/
down-by-the-bay](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/down-by-the-bay)

Play



Slippery Fish

Slippery fish, slippery fish,
Sliding through the water.
Slippery fish, slippery fish,
Gulp. Gulp. Gulp.
Oh, no! I've been eaten by...

An octopus, an octopus,
Squiggling through the water.
An octopus, an octopus,
Gulp. Gulp. Gulp.
Oh, no! I've been eaten by...

Repeat song with the following verses:
A tuna fish, a tuna fish,
Flashing in the water.

A great white shark, a great white shark,
Lurking in the water.

A humongous whale, a humongous whale,
Spouting through the water.
A humongous whale, a humongous whale,
Gulp. Gulp. Gulp.... Burp!
Pardon me!

Hear tune and see actions at
<https://youtu.be/OC9HS0lb4qI>



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!