

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 it 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 <https://libraries.idaho.gov/publications/bookworm/>

Here's how...

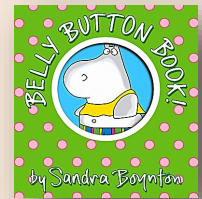


- ✦ Make book-sharing a special time between you and your child. Get comfortable and cozy!
- ✦ Begin reading books early, even when your child is a newborn.
- ✦ Let your child see you reading and enjoying reading.
- ✦ Visit your public library often.
- ✦ Let toddlers choose the books they want to read 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, every day (*see page 2*).

Read

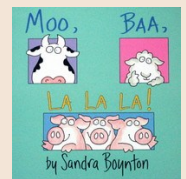
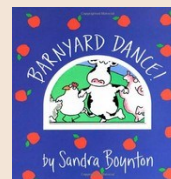


***The Belly Button Book*, by Sandra Boynton**



These bare-bellied hippos will have your little one in giggles as they celebrate the wonders of every toddler's favorite body part: the belly button!

More board books from Sandra Boynton:



Find a complete list of Boynton books, as well as songs and games, at www.sandraboynnton.com.

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



Research shows that the more you talk with your baby or toddler, the better reader she will be later on. “Reading” with your little one can just be showing them the pictures in the books and talking about what you see. “Look, this silly hippo is holding a pink balloon!”

Ready to Write



In order to hold a pencil later on, young children need to practice tiny movements with their fingers. Let your child try to hold the book or turn the pages. Let her point to or pat the photos as you talk about them.

In upcoming issues, we’ll share lots of different ways to help strengthen your child’s hand and finger muscles with activities that develop “fine motor skills.”

Play



Action Rhyme: Dance Your Fingers

(Match actions to words.)

Dance your fingers up,
And dance your fingers down
Dance your fingers to the side,
Dance them all around!
Dance them on your shoulders,
Dance them on your head
Dance them on your belly button,
And put them all to bed!

See this rhyme at

tinyurl.com/wccls-dance-your-fingers

(Washington County Cooperative Library System)



Sing



Did You Ever See a Baby?

Tune: Did You Ever See a Lassie?

*(Holding baby on your lap,
gently sway from side to side)*

Did you ever see a baby, a baby, a baby?

Did you ever see a baby go this way and that?

Go this way and that way,
and this way and that way.

Did you ever see a baby go this way and that?

(Holding baby, gently bounce up and down.)

Did you ever see a baby, a baby, a baby?

Did you ever see a baby bounce
this way and that?

Bounce this way and that way,
and this way and that way.

Did you ever see a baby bounce
this way and that?

To see a video of this song, visit
www.youtube.com/birth2six



At your library...



Your library offers many free resources to help you build your child’s early literacy skills such as age-appropriate books, music, storytimes, parent workshops, booklists, take-home activities, and events for the whole family!