

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...

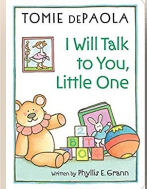


- ✦ Make book-sharing a special time between you and your child. Get comfortable and cozy!
- ✦ Begin reading books early, even when your child is a newborn.
- ✦ Let your child see you reading and enjoying reading.
- ✦ Visit your public library often.
- ✦ Let toddlers choose the books they want to read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



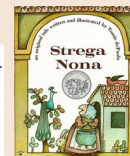
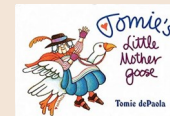
***I Will Talk to You, Little One*, by Phyllis E. Grann, illustrated by Tomie dePaola**



This sweet book shares how parents and caregivers can help make sure their little ones are ready to learn by talking, reading, and playing with them every day.

Phyllis E. Grann was the first female CEO of a major publishing company, and she was dedicated sharing the importance of reading to children.

Tomie dePaola was an award-winning author/illustrator of more than 270 books for young readers. Find his books at www.tomie.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



Take your baby or toddler on outings and talk about the things you see. Use lots of describing words. “Look at that tiny bird! He’s hopping around looking for tasty bugs to eat.” Avoid using “baby talk,” such as “wa-wa” for water or “ba-ba” for bottle. Your little one needs to hear lots of real words and sentences every day.

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



The Story Stomp

First you touch your nose,
then you touch your toes.

Stomp-Stomp! (*stomp feet*)

Then you bend your back, and you start to clap.

Clap-Clap! (*clap hands*)

That's the way it's done, it's a lot of fun.

Doin' the wiggle-waggle story stomp! (*wiggle hips*)

Repeat 3 times, changing first line to:

Next you touch your lips, then you touch your hips...

Then you touch your tummy, and hop like a bunny...

Now you touch your eyes, and you wave bye-bye...

To see this song in action go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/storystomp>

~Washington County Cooperative Library Services (Oregon)

Sing



Hush, Little Baby

Hush, little baby, don't say a word,
Papa's gonna buy you a mockingbird.

And if that mockingbird won't sing,
Papa's gonna buy you a diamond ring.

And if that diamond ring turns brass,
Papa's gonna buy you a looking glass.

And if that looking glass gets broke,
Papa's gonna buy you a billy goat.

And if that billy goat won't pull,
Papa's gonna buy you a cart and bull.

And if that cart and bull turn over,
Papa's gonna buy you a dog named Rover.

And if that dog named Rover won't bark,
Papa's gonna buy you a horse and cart.

And if that horse and cart fall down,
You'll still be the sweetest
little baby in town.

Hear tune: <https://tinyurl.com/Hush-little-baby-babycenter>



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!