

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 ...

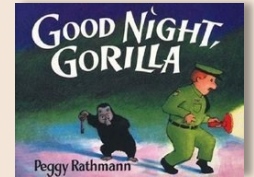


- ✦ Make book-sharing a special time between you and your child. Get comfortable and cozy!
- ✦ Begin reading books early, even when your child is a newborn.
- ✦ Let your child see you reading and enjoying reading.
- ✦ Visit your public library often.
- ✦ Let toddlers choose the books they want to read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



Goodnight, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann



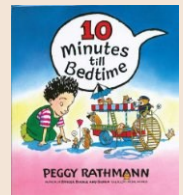
It's night time and the zookeeper is making sure the animals are ready to sleep. But what is the gorilla doing? This mostly wordless book will give your child a chance to help tell the story. Children love repetition and will learn the names of zoo animals as they read this classic children's book.

More Peggy Rathmann books for toddlers:

10 Minutes Until Bedtime

Bootsie Barker Bites written by Barbara Bottner

The Day the Babies Crawled Away



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



Gather any stuffed animals that your child has and put them in a box or basket. Pull the animals out one at a time and say, “Goodnight, dog” or “Goodnight, cow”- naming the animal. Using objects helps children make connections to the words they hear and builds vocabulary.

Ready to Write



Place your baby on a blanket with things from around your kitchen, such as measuring spoons, a colander, a turkey baster, wooden spoons, an ice cream scooper, a basting brush, a whisk, lids from pans, plastic cookie cutters— anything without a sharp edge or point. There is a lot to explore by shaking, poking, banging, tasting, twisting, pulling, and tossing the kitchen tools. This kind of exploration helps build little hand and finger muscles!

Play



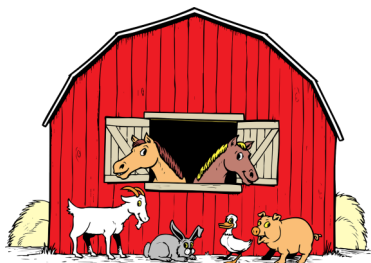
I Went To a Farm

I went to a farm the other day
And I saw a horse across the way
Can you guess what I heard him say?
Neigh, neigh, neigh, neigh.

1,2,3,4 (*Slap thighs to beat, or tap baby’s leg*)

1,2,3,4 (*Slap thighs to beat, or tap baby’s leg*)

Repeat chant with other farm animals.



Source– Library of Michigan

Sing



We’re Going to the Zoo

(to the tune of “Farmer in the Dell”)

We’re going to the zoo,
We’re going to the zoo!
Hi, ho, it’s off we go,
We’re going to the zoo!

We’ll see some monkeys there,
We’ll see some monkeys there.
Swinging, climbing in the trees,
We’ll see some monkeys there.

We’ll see some tigers there,
We’ll see some tigers there
Roaring, pouncing, playing about,
We’ll see some tigers there.

We’ll see some penguins there,
We’ll see some penguins there.
Waddling, diving, swimming around,
We’ll see some penguins there.

Hear tune at: <https://bussongs.com/songs/the-farmer-in-the-dell>

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!