

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 ...

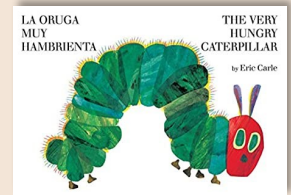


- ✦ Make book-sharing a special time between you and your child. Get comfortable and cozy!
- ✦ Begin reading books early, even when your child is a newborn.
- ✦ Let your child see you reading and enjoying reading.
- ✦ Visit your public library often.
- ✦ Let toddlers choose the books they want to read 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 Very Hungry Caterpillar ***(bilingual edition)*** **by Eric Carle**



This all-time favorite follows a hungry caterpillar as it grows from egg to cocoon to beautiful butterfly, eating his way right through the pages!

More board books from Eric Carle:



Find a complete list of books at www.eric-carle.com or your public library.

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 they 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. “Oh, look at all these strawberries. They’re red and green, and the caterpillar is going to eat them up!”



Ready to Write



In order for your child to learn to write later on, they need to practice tiny movements with their fingers. Let your toddler tear up different kinds of paper into little pieces, the littler the better! If you like, you can help them make a collage with the pieces. Smear a glue stick on some cardboard or other paper and let them stick the pieces on. This is how author/illustrator Eric Carle makes his pictures.

Play



Inch Worm

by Eric Litwin

(used with permission)

One little inch worm
Climbing up a tree (*with one finger make a wiggly inch worm movement*).
It’s hot in the sun (*move the back of your hand over your forehead*).
And cold in the breeze (*hug yourself and shiver*)
When I need a bite to eat
I stop and munch upon a leaf (*rub your belly*).
Chomp chomp chomp chomp (*open and close your hands as if they are mouths*).
Then I’m on my waaaaaay! (*make an arc over your head with your hands*).

Hear Mr. Eric sing this song
at www.learninggroove.com

Sing



The Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy bitsy spider
crawled up the water spout.
Down came the rain
and washed the spider out.
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain.
And the itsy bitsy spider
crawled up the spout again.



You can hear the Itsy Bitsy Spider song at
www.thelearninggroove.com

Now try this one, using the same tune:

The little caterpillar crawled up into a tree.
Spun his cocoon and slept so quietly.
All through the winter he didn't make a sound.
He dreamt of his new life
when he could fly around.
While he was sleeping the snow did gently fall.
Winter came and went,
then he heard the robin's call.
Come on, Mr. Butterfly, out of your cocoon.
Spread your wings and fly for me,
while I sing my tune.

(Brooklyn Public Library “First Five Years”)

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!