

## 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 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...

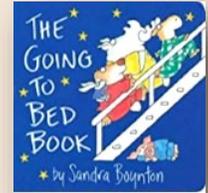


- ✦ Make book-sharing a special time between you and your child. Get comfortable and cozy!
- ✦ Begin reading books early, even when your child is a newborn.
- ✦ Let your child see you reading and enjoying reading.
- ✦ Visit your public library often.
- ✦ Let toddlers choose the books they want to read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

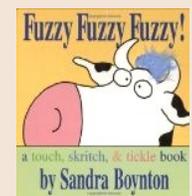
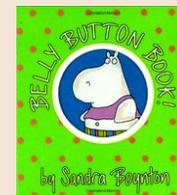
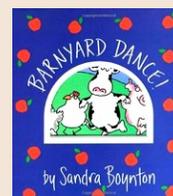


### ***The Going to Bed Book*, by Sandra Boynton**



A silly group of animals scrub in the tub, brush their teeth, and finally rock to sleep. This classic bedtime story is just right for winding down the day with your little one.

Author/cartoonist Sandra Boynton has written several books for young children. If your child enjoyed "The Going to Bed Book," check out some of her other board books at your local 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



“Reading” with a baby or toddler is more about talking and pointing to the pictures than actually reading. See this video about reading to your baby: <http://tinyurl.com/readingtobaby>

## 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 pictures as you talk about them.

## Sing



### Lullaby: 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 the tune:

[www.kidsongs.com/lyrics/hush-little-baby.html](http://www.kidsongs.com/lyrics/hush-little-baby.html)

## Play



### Fingerplay

*(Follow the instructions for your hands in the song)*

Open, shut them, open, shut them,  
Give a little clap, clap, clap.  
Open, shut them, open, shut them,  
Put them in your lap.  
Creep them, creep them,  
creep them, creep them,  
Right up to your chin.  
Open up your little mouth  
and do not let them in.

*Fingerplays help babies and toddlers strengthen those little muscles needed to hold a pencil later on.*

## 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!