

Did you know...



Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing *before* they actually learn to read and write. Helping your child develop early literacy skills will build a foundation for reading, so that when they are taught to read they are ready. You can start at birth!

Reading aloud with your kindergartener every day and teaching them about the world around them are practices that help prepare children to learn to read.

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 and Toddlers, Preschool, and Kindergarten. You can find more "Bookworms," as well as versions in Spanish, at <https://libraries.idaho.gov/publications/bookworm/>.

Here's how...

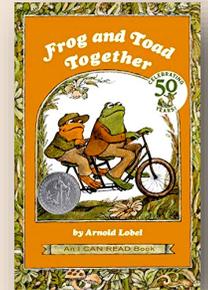


- ✦ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ✦ Keep books and other reading materials where your child can reach them.
- ✦ Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- ✦ Show your child how you read every day for fun and work (novels, newspapers, magazines, etc.).
- ✦ Visit the library or bookstore with your child to attend storytimes and choose books to read at home.

Read



Frog and Toad Together, by Arnold Lobel



Frog and Toad are best friends—they do everything together. When Toad admires the flowers in Frog's garden, Frog gives him seeds to grow a garden of his own. When Toad bakes cookies, Frog helps him eat them. And when both Frog and Toad are scared, they are brave together.

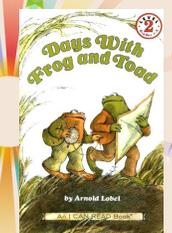
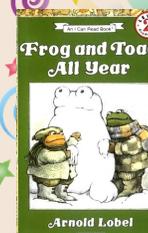
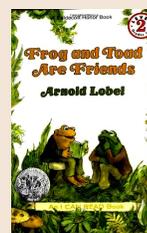
The best thing you can do with your kindergartener is to read to them every day. "I Can Read" books such as Frog and Toad are good for them to practice with once they become readers, but for now you can enjoy reading this story, and many others, over and over to your child.

Choose Books



2020 marks the 50th anniversary of Frog and Toad!

For 50 years, Frog and Toad have shown children what true friendship is like. Look for all the Frog and Toad books at your library:



Sing



The More We Get Together

The more we get together,
together, together,

The more we get together,
the happier we'll be.

'Cause your friends are my friends,
and my friends are your friends.

The more we get together,
the happier we'll be!

Hear this song at <https://kidsongs.com/lyrics/the-more-we-get-together.html/>



Play



Will You Be a Friend of Mine?

(To the tune of London Bridge Is Falling Down)

Choose two people to face each other with hands clasped together to make a bridge. The others walk under the bridge as you sing the first verse and continue circling around:

Will you be a friend of mine?
Friend of mine, friend of mine?
Will you be a friend of mine,
And play with me today?

On the second verse, bring hands down around the person who is currently under the "bridge," and sing:

Yes, I'll be a friend of yours,
Friend of yours, friend of yours.
Yes, I'll be a friend of yours,
And play with you today!

The person under the bridge then switches places with one of the bridge holders, and the game continues, repeating both verses.

See the London Bridge version of this game at <http://tinyurl.com/bridge-game-barney>

Talk



Studies show that when parents and caregivers talk with their children throughout the day, those children learn more words and are better able to learn to read. Asking your child questions about her day, explaining what you're doing as you do it, and talking about what you see as you're out and about are ways to talk *with*, rather than *at*, your child.

Write



Help your child make a list of some things they need to do today, then post it on the refrigerator or somewhere they can see it. Help them check things off as they complete them. At the end of the day, talk about all the things they achieved!



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!