

## 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 it 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...



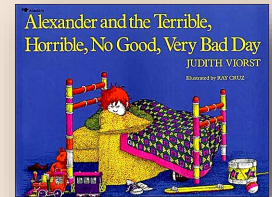
- ✦ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ✦ Keep books and other reading materials where your child can reach them.
- ✦ Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- ✦ Show your child 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



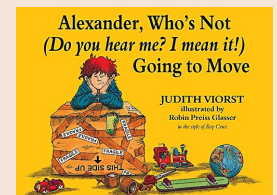
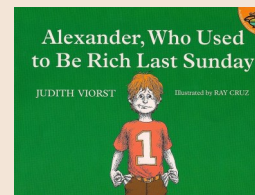
### **Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day,**

**by Judith Viorst**



Alexander wakes up with bubble gum in his hair... and from there the day only gets worse! Teacher trouble, fights with brothers, dentist visits, lima beans ... sometimes kids just have bad days — even in Australia. This is a great read-aloud for the whole family!

Judith Viorst has written several favorite children's books, including other Alexander books:



## Choose Books



### **Some other fun read-aloud books to look for at your library:**

*Knufflebunny, A Cautionary Tale*, by Mo Willems

*The Gruffalo*, by Julia Donaldson

*Pete the Cat: Rockin' in My School Shoes*, by Eric Litwin

*The Day the Crayons Quit*, by Drew Daywalt

*Mother Bruce*, by Ryan T. Higgins

## 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



Part of learning to write is seeing how print is used in the world around us. Help your child find places in a book's illustrations where print is used and talk about its meaning. Look for print as you are out and about with your child, like on road signs or in restaurants or grocery stores.

## Play



**Stop and Go ...** Playing Stop and Go games helps your child learn to control their body. Body control helps your child be more successful in kindergarten, such as sitting in circle and listening to a story, lining up when recess is over, or working with a friend on a project. Try this Stop and Go game:

*(Say and do each movement four times.)*

You clap and you clap and you clap and you **stop!**

You wiggle....  
You bounce...  
You walk...  
You hop...  
You spin...



See a video of this game from the King County Library System:

<https://tinyurl.com/kcls-clap-stop>

## Sing



### I Like to Go to School!

*(To the tune of Farmer in the Dell)*

I like to go to school.  
I like to go to school.  
Heigh-ho-the-derry-oh,  
I like to go to school.

I like to sing new songs.  
I like to sing new songs.  
Heigh-ho-the-derry-oh,  
I like to sing new songs.

*Additional verses:*

I like to play with friends...  
I like to read my books...  
I like to build with blocks...  
I like to draw with crayons...

*Make up your own verses!*

To hear the tune go to  
<http://bussongs.com/songs/the-farmer-in-the-dell.php>



## 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!