

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 ...

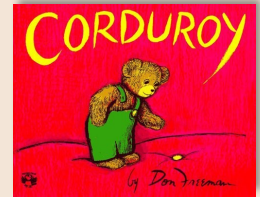


- ✦ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ✦ Keep books and other reading materials where your child can reach them.
- ✦ Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- ✦ Show your child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



Corduroy by Don Freeman



No one wants to buy Corduroy the teddy bear because his overalls are missing a button. So late one night he searches the department store for his button. He has many adventures before the night watchman discovers him and returns him to his shelf. But the next day a little girl looks past Corduroy's missing button and sees a friend to love.



Corduroy has another adventure in *A Pocket for Corduroy*. Look for it at your local library!

Choose Books



Here are some other timeless classic stories to share with your child:

Bedtime for Frances by Lillian Hoban

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobokina

Frederick by Leo Lionni

Frog and Toad Are Friends by Arnold Lobel

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey

The Napping House by Audrey Wood

Strega Nona by Tomie DePaola

The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

Talk



Corduroy has a missing button. Button collections are a good way for your child to practice literacy and math skills. You can talk with them about:

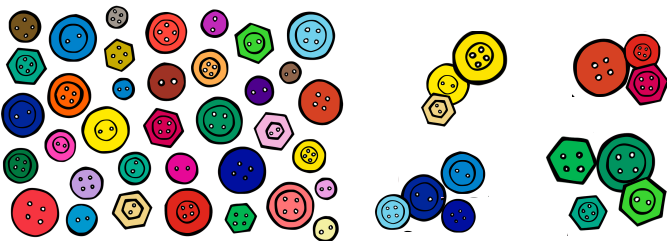
- Size
- Color
- Shape
- Number of holes

If you don't have enough buttons at home, find another collection of items to talk about (beads, race cars, blocks, etc.).

Play



Ask your child to sort and count the buttons (or another collection of items) into groups that are alike in some way. Let them decide how to sort the buttons, then ask them to tell you about how they grouped them. Then they can count how many in each group. Counting and sorting are math skills!



Write



After your child sorts the buttons (or other collections) into groups, give them a piece of paper and ask them to draw how they sorted the items into groups. Help them label the groups but do not write the words for them. Ask your child what sounds they hear and what letters make those sounds. They might remember seeing the word, and you can ask them to write what they remember. At this age, it is more important for your child to practice writing this way, rather than to spell words correctly.

Sing



The Bear Went Over the Mountain

The bear went over the mountain,
The bear went over the mountain,
The bear went over the mountain,
 To see what he could see.
The other side of the mountain,
The other side of the mountain,
The other side of the mountain,
 Was all that he could see.
The other side of the mountain,
 Was all that he could see!

To see a video of this song visit the King County Library System:

<https://kcls.org/content/bear-went-over-the-mountain/>

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!