

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.

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...

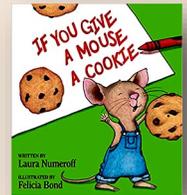


- ✦ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ✦ Keep books and other reading materials where your child can reach them.
- ✦ Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- ✦ Share rhymes and songs that young children enjoy, every day (*see page 2 for examples*).
- ✦ 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



If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, by Laura Numeroff



If you give a mouse a cookie, he will want a glass of milk. Then he'll want to look in the mirror to make sure he doesn't have a milk mustache, and then he'll ask for a pair of scissors to give himself a trim... and that's just the beginning!

This is a timeless tale to read with your child again and again... and again.

También disponible en Español

Choosing Books



More books by author Laura Numeroff

If You Give a Cat a Cupcake (*También disponible en Español*)

If You Give a Moose a Muffin (*También disponible en Español*)

The Best Mouse Cookie

Beatrice Doesn't Want To

Laura Numeroff's 10-Step Guide to Living with Your Monster

What Mommies Do Best/What Daddies Do Best

Dogs Don't Wear Sneakers

Raising a Hero



To find more Laura Numeroff books, as well as activities and information about the author, visit www.lauranumeroff.com



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



Drawing helps your preschooler develop the fine motor skills needed to hold a pencil and write letters.

Gather some crayons and paper, and ask your child to draw a picture of their family. At this age people may not have bodies, and arms and legs may be sticking out of heads. As your child gets older, their drawings will begin to show more detail.

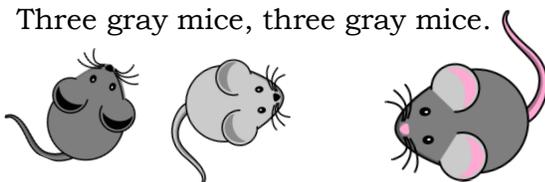


Sing

**Three Gray Mice**

This is version of the song, "Three Blind Mice," but with a happier ending.

Three gray mice, three gray mice,
See how they run. See how they run.
They all were chased by the farmer's cat.
They ran and hid in an old straw hat.
Did you ever see such a sight as that?
Three gray mice, three gray mice.



Tune: <https://tinyurl.com/three-mice-tune>

**Five Little Mice**

Five little mice on the pantry floor,
(hold up five fingers)

This little mouse peeked behind the door.
(cup hands around face)

This little mouse nibbled at the cake,
(pretend to eat)

This little mouse not a sound did make.
(hold finger in front of mouth, "shhh")

This little mouse took a bite of cheese,
(pretend to eat)

This little mouse heard the kitten sneeze.
(cup hand around ear)

"A-choo!" sneezed the kitten,
And "Squeak!" they cried,
(wave hands, excited)

As they found a hole and ran inside.
(run in place)

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!