

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 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.
- ✦ 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



***The Pigeon Needs a Bath*, by Mo Willems**



The Pigeon really needs a bath! Except, the Pigeon's not so sure about that.

Besides, he took a bath last month! Maybe. Can you convince Pigeon to take the plunge?

Look for this book, as well as other great books to read aloud with your child, at your local public library!

Choosing Books



More Mo Willems books to read with your child:

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus (and many other Pigeon books)

We Are in a Book! (and many other Elephant and Piggie books)

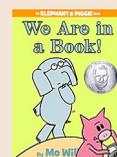
Knufflebunny: A Cautionary Tale

Edwina: the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct

Leonardo the Terrible Monster

Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed

Nanette's Baguette



To find more Mo Willems books, as well as activities and information about the author, visit <https://pigeonpresents.com>.

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 their 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



Fingerplays help strengthen the little muscles in your child's fingers that hold a pencil. Try this one:

(Put five fingers up, bend down a finger for each pigeon that flies away)

Five little pigeons, flying around our door,

The **blue** one flew away,
and then there were four.

Four little pigeons sitting in a tree,
The **yellow** one flew away,
and then there were three.

The other little pigeons didn't know what to do,
So the **red** one flew away,
and then there were two.

Two little pigeons sitting in the sun,
The **brown** one flew away, and there was one.

The little **green** pigeon felt so all alone,
He/she flew away,
and then there were none.

Play



Pigeon is very dramatic, and Pigeon stories are perfect to act out! Let your child or a favorite stuffed animal play the part of Pigeon or another favorite character. Laugh it up!

Sing



This Is the Way We Take a Bath

Tune: Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush

This is the way we take a bath,
Take a bath, take a bath;
This is the way we take a bath
So we get nice and clean!

This is the way we wash our face,
We wash our face, we wash our face;
This is the way we wash our face
So we get nice and clean!

Other verses...

This is the way we shampoo our hair...

This is the way we scrub our toes...

This is the way we sponge our backs...

This is the way we splash our mom... so she gets nice and clean!

<http://bussongs.com/songs/here-we-go-round-the-mulberry-bush.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!