

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 ...

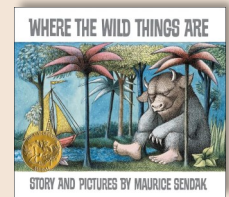


- ✦ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ✦ Keep books and other reading materials where your child can reach them.
- ✦ Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- ✦ Share rhymes and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

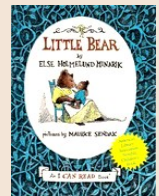
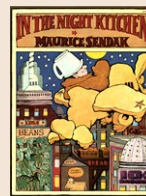


Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak



This timeless classic story of Max and his Wild Things has brought joy to generations of children. As you read this award-winning book aloud to your child, try using different voices or actions for Max and the monsters. Let your child join in the fun, too!

Maurice Sendak has written and/or illustrated lots of other classic books to look for at your library:



Choosing Books



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

Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
by Bill Martin, Jr.

Corduroy by Don Freeman

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson

The Mitten by Jan Brett

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Talk



For pages that have only pictures and no words, ask your child to help explain what is happening. Ask questions such as, “Look at Max—how do you think he’s feeling in this picture?” Point out things in the illustrations that your child may not notice.

Write



Now is the time for your preschooler to practice holding a pencil. Start with chunky crayons or sidewalk chalk first. Create a wild thing together—help your child draw two circles on top of each other, then take turns adding horns, claws, teeth, big eyes, and other terrible things!



Sing



Head Shoulders Knees and Toes

(Touch each body part as you sing it)

Head, shoulders, knees and toes,
knees and toes.
Head, shoulders, knees and toes,
knees and toes,
And eyes and ears and mouth and nose.
Head, shoulders, knees and toes,
knees and toes.

(Repeat, getting faster each time)

Now sing: Horns, fangs, knees and claws,
Knees and claws.
Horns, fangs, knees and claws,
Knees and claws. *(repeat)*
And eyes and ears and tails and paws,
Horns, fangs, knees and claws,
Knees and claws.

You can find the Head Shoulders Knees and Toes song at <http://tinyurl.com/wccls-knees-toes>
(Washington County Cooperative Library Services)

Play



Playing Stop and Go games helps your child learn to control their body. Turn on some music, say, “Let the wild rumpus start!” and let your child dance and be a “wild thing.” Then stop the music, say, “Now stop!” and show your child how to freeze in place. Start the music again and repeat. Play several times. Children will learn that when the music stops they should freeze, without your voice cue.



Let your child take a turn at playing Max and be in control of the music while you’re the wild thing.

Fact: Children who have better control over their bodies and emotions generally do better in school. Listening to directions, working in a group, and sticking with a task when it is hard are all activities that require self-control.

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!