



# Early Literacy Newsletter



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## What is Early Literacy?

Early Literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write. Research shows that children get ready to read years before they start school. There are five early literacy practices that parents can incorporate into their children's daily life.

These five practices are:

**Talking, Writing, Reading, Playing,  
and Singing**

This newsletter's purpose is to help parents of children from birth to age five put early literacy principles into practice. You can help your baby, toddler and preschooler learn important skills now so they can become good readers. There are many simple and fun ways to do this. We invite you to bring your child to Library storytimes, which utilize research-based techniques to build early literacy skills. This newsletter will help you extend storytime benefits by including book-related fingerplays, crafts, and other activities.

One of the five Early Literacy practices is:

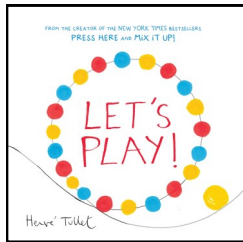
## Playing

Play is one of the primary ways young children learn language and literacy skills and learn about the world. Playing helps children put thoughts into words and think symbolically so they understand that spoken and written words can stand for real objects and experiences.

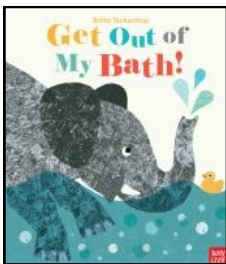
### Activities to do at home:

- Note:** You don't need expensive toys. Inexpensive items that you have around the house can be used for imaginative play.
- Encourage dramatic play– make up stories using puppets and stuffed animals.
  - Have a stash of dress-up clothes available for your child. Dress-up play encourages children to use their imaginations to become different characters.
  - Have your child pretend to be an animal.
  - Play “Doctor’s Office,” “Restaurant,” “Store,” or “Fire Station” with your child.
  - Let children use their imagination to create props!
  - Play outside with your child - build forts, go sledding, ride bikes, etc.
  - Play with playdough.
  - Pretend to read a book– let your child tell you a story based on the pictures in a book.

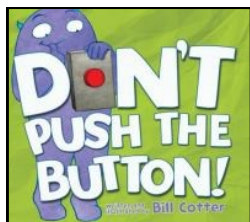
## Great interactive books:



**Let's Play!**  
[Reserve this book](#)



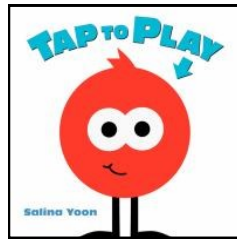
**Get Out of My Bath!**  
[Reserve this book](#)



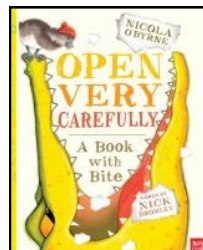
**Don't Push the Button!**  
[Reserve this book](#)



**Please, Open This Book!**  
[Reserve this book](#)



**Tap to Play**  
[Reserve this book](#)



**Open Very Carefully**  
[Reserve this book](#)

## Activity: Homemade Playdough



Creative play experiences with materials like playdough offer children many valuable learning opportunities including building fine motor strength, stimulating the imagination

and promoting social interaction. Use the following recipe to make your own playdough at home then use it to create shapes, animals, letters, food, etc. and let the fun begin!

### Homemade Playdough Recipe:

Combine 1 cup water, 1 Tbs. oil, 1/2 cup salt, 1 Tbs. cream of tartar, and food coloring (as much or as little as you choose) in a saucepan and heat until warm. Remove from heat and add 1 cup flour. Stir, then knead until smooth. Store this dough in an airtight container or a Ziploc freezer bag.

## Try this Fun Fingerplay with your Toddler or Preschooler:

### I'm a Friendly Snowman

Sung to: "I'm a little teapot"



I'm a friendly snowman big and fat.

(stretch arms out to sides)

Here is my tummy and here is my hat.

(point to tummy, then top of head)

I'm a happy fellow, here's my nose.

(smile, then point to nose)

I'm all snow from my head to my toes.

(point to head, then to toes)

I have two bright eyes so I can see.

(point to eyes)

All the snow falling down on me.

(flutter fingers downward)

When the weather's cold I'm

strong and tall.

(stand up all)

But when it's warm I get very

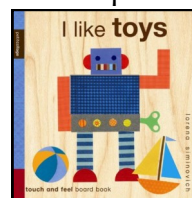
small.

(crouch down low)

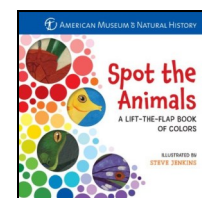


## Board Books for Babies

Babies love to touch and grab, so interactive books such as touch and feel books and lift the flap books are great for babies!

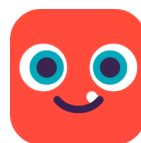


**I Like Toys: A Touch and Feel Board Book**  
[Reserve this book](#)



**Spot the Animals: A Lift the Flap Book of Colors**  
[Reserve this book](#)

## Early Literacy App



The free, award winning app, LumiKids Park, provides kids with fun learning activities that work on skills such as sorting, visual-motor coordination, and attention. Kids will love exploring this interactive park filled with surprise, designed to make them giggle and keep them challenged. Want more? Try the other free LumiKids apps - LumiKids Beach, LumiKids Backyard and LumiKids Snow!