



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:

Singing

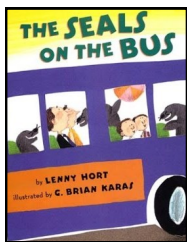
Songs are a natural way for children to learn about language. Singing slows down language so children can hear the different sounds that make up words. In addition, singing helps children learn new words and adds to their general knowledge.

Activities to do at home:

Note: Sing to your child the songs you know and love. You don't need a perfect voice, just some enthusiasm.

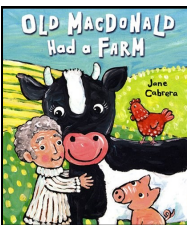
- Move to the music.
- Clap along to rhythms. This helps children hear the syllables in words and it helps them practice motor skills.
- Sing songs/fingerplays fast, slow, and over and over.
- Sing songs with rhyming words, silly words, and long stretched out words.
- Sing the ABC song. This will help your child learn letter names and alphabetical order.
- Fill a plastic bottle with cereal or use a pie-tin and wooden spoon as percussion instruments.
- Read books that can be sung. These can include nursery rhymes, books that promote singing, or books that can be sung to a specific tune.

Great books that you can sing:



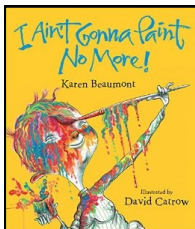
The Seals on the Bus

[Reserve this book](#)



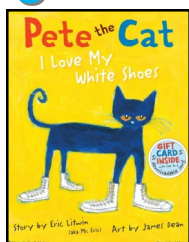
Old MacDonald had a Farm

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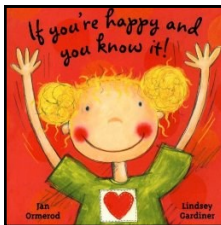
I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!

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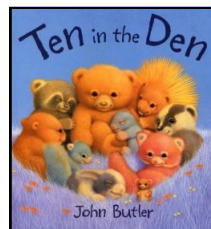
Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes

[Reserve this book](#)



If You're Happy and You Know It!

[Reserve this book](#)



Ten in the Den

[Reserve this book](#)

Art Activity: Make your own shaker!



Making a shaker out of everyday household items is a fun activity to do with your child. And when you use it with your favorite music, it becomes an Early Literacy tool! Start with an

empty bottle with a lid (a water bottle would work well). Then add some dried rice, lentils, peas & beans to the bottle. Don't put too much in, it's good to have a bit of space so the beans, etc. can shake about. Put the lid on & securely seal the container with duck tape or hot glue. It would even be a good idea to cover your entire bottle with colorful duct tape to prevent any breakage. For a final touch, add some stickers if you'd like! Now your shaker is ready. Put on your favorite music & have fun moving your shaker to the beat!

Try this Fun Action Song with your Toddler or Preschooler:

I'll Plant a Little Seed

(Sung to the Tune: I'm a little teapot)

I'll plant a little seed in the dark dark ground
(*point to ground*)

Out comes the yellow sun, big and round
(*bend arms up high to create a circle*)

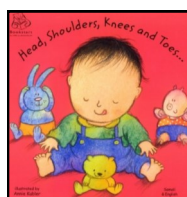
Down comes the cool rain, soft and slow
(*flutter fingers*)

Up comes the little seed, grow, grow, grow
(*move hands from floor to sky*)



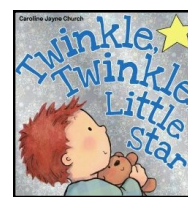
Board Books for Babies

Reading and singing to babies helps them learn the rhythm of language. Plus, it's a wonderful bonding experience. Here are a few board books from our collection that you can sing to your baby!



Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

[Reserve this book](#)



Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

[Reserve this book](#)

Early Literacy App



The engaging, inexpensive app, *Bunny Fun: Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes* combines learning and entertainment by featuring a Rosemary Wells illustrated bunny character dancing and singing in four different languages - English, French, Japanese and Spanish. For added fun, voice recording capabilities are also included so users can record and listen their own voice singing the song.