



Early Literacy Newsletter



Issue 1
Sept - Nov 2014

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 six early literacy skills that parents can incorporate into their children's daily life. These six skills are: Print Motivation, Vocabulary, Print Awareness, Narrative Skills, Phonological Awareness, and Letter Knowledge.

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 six Early Literacy skills is:

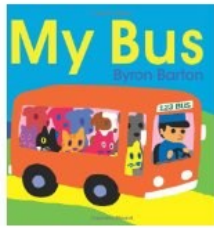
Print Motivation

When the experience of sharing a book is pleasurable for both the parent and the child, the child will be more attentive and responsive. The more pleasurable book sharing is, the more regular and frequent an activity it will become. Children who enjoy books are more likely to want to learn to read, and to keep trying even when it is hard.

Here are some ways to help your young child get excited about reading!:

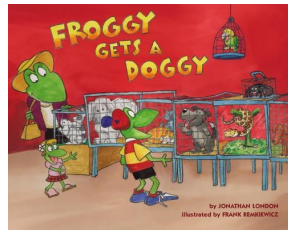
- Read often and make it enjoyable. Young children have a short attention span, so keep reading activities brief and fun.
- Make book-sharing a special time between you and your child. Get comfortable and cozy.
- Let your child see you reading and enjoying reading.
- Let children pick out books they want to read or have read to them.
- Scatter books throughout your house, not just in your child's bedroom. If books are handy, they are more likely to be picked up.
- Always look at the picture on the front cover of the book together. It can be a great discussion starter about what a book might be about or why it will be a fun book.
- Change your voice as you read aloud. Keeping books fun will keep your kids coming back for more.
- Visit your public library often. Make it a special day or night of the week and make a big deal about it.

Some fun, newer books to share with your preschooler or toddler:



My Bus

[Reserve this book](#)



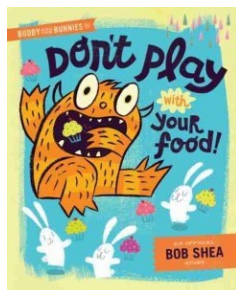
Froggy Gets a Doggy

[Reserve this book](#)



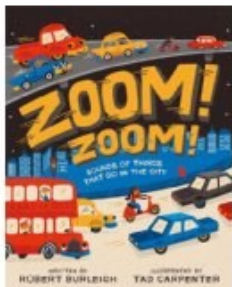
Gaston

[Reserve this book](#)



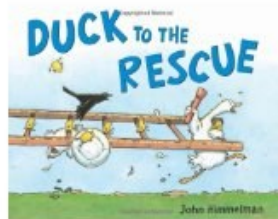
Don't Play with your Food!

[Reserve this book](#)



Zoom! Zoom!

[Reserve this book](#)



Duck to the Rescue

[Reserve this book](#)

Craft: Apple Prints

Apples make for perfect stamps and even cuter fall artwork! All you need are some apples, acrylic craft paint and paper. Cut your apples in half to create a flat surface for stamping. Make your finished project into placemats, wrapping paper or just some cute refrigerator art! Pair this craft with the book "Ten Red Apples" by Pat Hutchins for a great literacy tie-in.



Try this Fun Fingerplay with your Toddler or Preschooler:

Way Up High In The Apple Tree

Way up high in the apple tree,
(hold hands up)

Two little apples smiled at me.
(hold up 2 fingers, point to smile)

I shook that tree, as hard as I could.

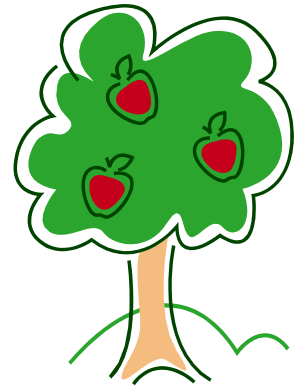
(pretend to shake tree)

Down came the apples!

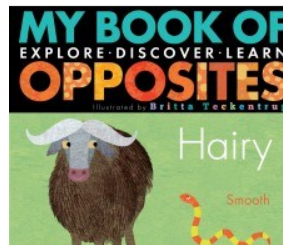
(drop hands down to the ground)

Mmm, were they good!

(rub stomach)

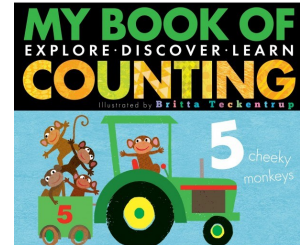


New Board Books for Babies



My Book of Opposites

[Reserve this book](#)



My Book of Counting

[Reserve this book](#)

Early Literacy Apps

Give these fun, interactive Story Apps a try!



Go Away Big Green Monster



Moo, Baa La La La



Goodnight Moon