



Early Literacy Newsletter



Issue 2

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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 six early literacy skills that parents can incorporate into their children's daily life. These six skills are: **Vocabulary, Print Motivation, 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:

Vocabulary

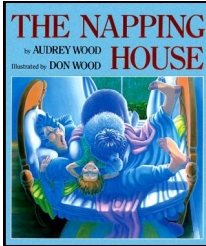
Recognition of words and their meanings forms the foundation for fluent reading.

It is easier for children to read and understand words they have already heard, so we can give them a head start by helping to expand their vocabulary.

Here are some ways to help build your child's vocabulary:

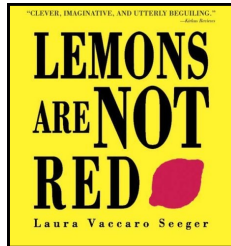
- Use words your child may not be familiar with when you talk.
- Take time before or during the reading of a book to explain an unfamiliar word (do not replace unfamiliar words).
- Talk about the different meanings of a word: wave, cap, bat.
- Add synonyms to exchange new words for familiar words.
- Add descriptive words.
- Talk about the feelings characters in the story might have, even if those words are not used in the book.
- Read non-fiction books too. They have different vocabulary from storybooks.
- After reading a book, go back to an interesting picture and talk about it, adding less familiar words.
- Use words for things that happened in the past and will happen in the future.
- Show real items when possible (moss, mango); for babies and toddlers, point to and name objects.
- Use specific words rather than "it", "this", "that", "here", "there".

Some great books to help build vocabulary:



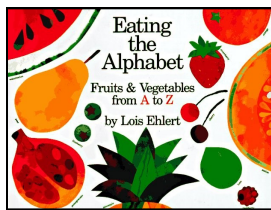
The Napping House

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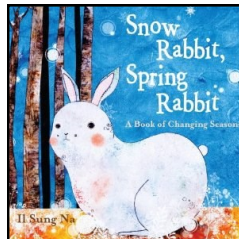
Lemons Are Not Red

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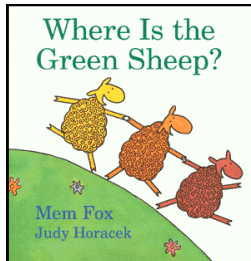
Eating the Alphabet

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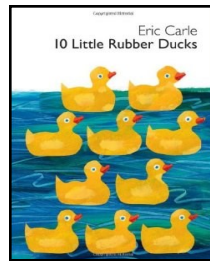
Snow Rabbit, Spring Rabbit

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Where is the Green Sheep?

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10 Little Rubber Ducks

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Craft: Paper Plate Snowman

To make a paper plate snowman, first take two or three paper plates. They can all be the same or different sizes. Connect the plates with staples, glue or tape.



Decorate the snowman with construction paper cut out into shapes of mittens, boots, twigs, eyes or buttons. You can also find items in your house and yard that might be fun to glue onto the plates. Pair this craft with the book *Snowballs* by Lois Ehlert for more vocabulary building fun!

Try this Fun Fingerplay with your Toddler or Preschooler:

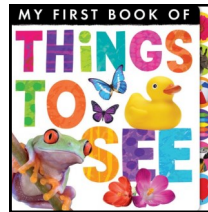
I Built a Little Snowman

I built a little snowman
 (make large circle with arms)
 He had a carrot nose (point to nose)
 Along came a bunny
 (hold up two bent fingers)
 And what do you suppose? (shrug)
 That hungry little bunny
 (make bunny again)
 Looking for his lunch
 (shade eyes with hand & look around)
 Ate the snowman's nose
 (pretend bunny is eating nose)
 Nibble! Nibble! Crunch!
 (pretend to be eating a carrot)



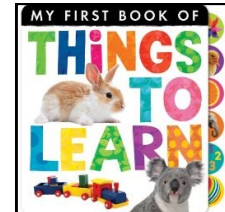
Board Books for Babies

Increase your baby's vocabulary by reading board books. As your baby begins to talk, point to pictures and ask your baby to name the objects. Talk about each picture and add description.



Things to See

[Reserve this book](#)



Things to Learn

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Early Literacy Apps

Vocabulary Catcher - A Series of Free Vocabulary Apps for iPad



Each of the six separate apps in this series cover a different category of words.

