



# Early Literacy Newsletter



Issue 3  
Mar - May 2015

## 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:

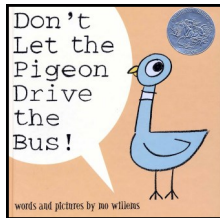
## Print Awareness

Noticing print, knowing how books work, and understanding how to follow words on a page are all part of Print Awareness. The greater a child's awareness of print, the more quickly and easily he can learn to read.

### Here are some ways to help promote your child's print awareness:

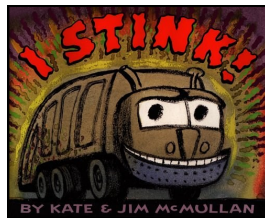
- Use your finger to point out or trace words as you read them.
- Point out print that is different sizes or colors and change your voice to match.
- Using exit signs, stop signs, advertisements, menus, and other print in your environment is a simple and easy way to develop print awareness throughout your day.
- Try starting off reading a book upside down. Does your child notice? If not, ask your child how we read books, wait a few seconds for an answer, and then show and tell! Flip the book the right way and start from the front cover.
- Let your child help you write out a shopping list or a to-do list. Talk out loud as you write down items.
- With your child (as young as an infant,) read a simple book and point out pictures. If you can, find an actual object that looks like the picture and talk about them both. This will help your child begin to understand that pictures represent real things.
- Label objects in your house and point them out as you move throughout the day. Label things like: the refrigerator, chairs, toys, bookshelves, beds, and other items you use during the day.

## Some great books to help build print awareness:



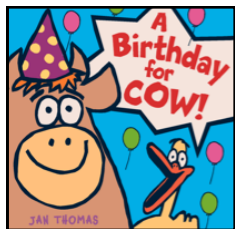
### Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!

[Reserve this book](#)



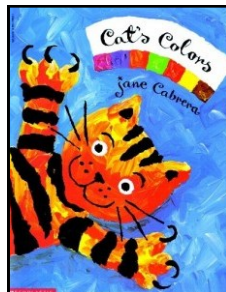
### I Stink!

[Reserve this book](#)



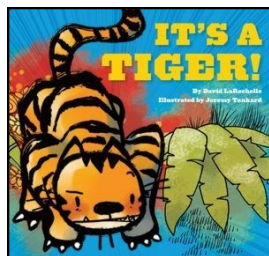
### A Birthday for Cow!

[Reserve this book](#)



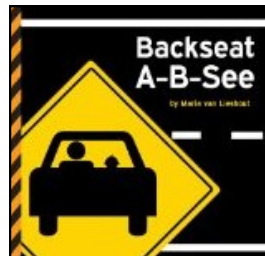
### Cat's Colors

[Reserve this book](#)



### It's a Tiger!

[Reserve this book](#)



### Backseat A-B-See

[Reserve this book](#)

## Craft: Make Your Own Book!

The process of making a book will help children learn the parts of a book and how a book works. Fold 4 or 5 pieces of plain white paper in half, and staple the folded edges. Think of a fun story to create with your child. Come up with a title and write it on the cover. Make sure you include the author and illustrator. Let your child tell you what to write down. Write the words on the bottom half of the paper and let them do the illustrations on the top half. You could even use magazine pictures or make collages. Make the book special, add it to your home library, and share with friends and family.



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

### THE RAIN

Pitter patter raindrops  
Falling from the sky.  
(Flutter fingers down from sky)  
Here is my umbrella  
To keep me safe and dry.  
(Hands over head)  
When the rain is over  
The sun begins to glow.

(Make a big circle with arms)

Little flowers start to bud  
bud

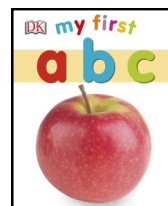
And grow and grow and grow.

(Cup hands together and gradually open upward)



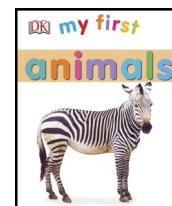
## Board Books for Babies

When reading a board book with nice clear pictures, point to the picture and then show your baby the real thing. This helps Baby learn that pictures represent things she can see and touch.



### My First ABC

[Reserve this book](#)



### My First Animals

[Reserve this book](#)

## Early Literacy Apps



The inexpensive iPad app, **Alphabetical Order**, is a great way to increase your child's Print Awareness!

The app challenges children to put the letters in order, to match upper and lower case letters, and to match the letters to their sounds.