



Early Literacy Newsletter



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June - Aug 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: 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:

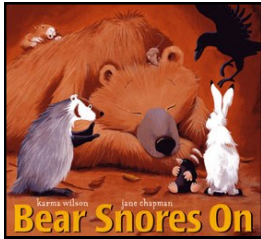
Narrative Skills

Being able to talk about and explain what happens in a story helps a child understand the meaning of what he or she is reading. Good narrative skills lead to good reading comprehension.

Here are some ways to help develop your child's narrative skills...

- Read books with a repeated phrase. Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase with you each time.
- Re-read books so that your child can become familiar with the story.
- Have your child retell the story.
- Encourage your child to tell you something from her own experience related to what happened in the book.
- Use puppets or props to tell the story to help your child remember it; have your child use props to help retell the story.
- Encourage your child to talk about the pictures in the book even if what she says is not in the story.
- Ask open-ended questions, ones that cannot be answered with yes or no.
- Talk about the pictures in the book and let your child tell you his thoughts and experiences.
- Have your child draw pictures and ask her to tell you about it.
- Label not just objects but also actions, feelings, and ideas.
- Encourage imaginative play - pretend play allows children the freedom to create stories on their own.

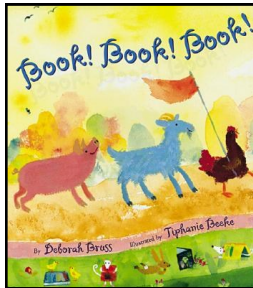
Some great books to build narrative skills:



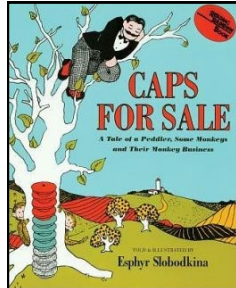
Bear Snores On
[Reserve this book](#)



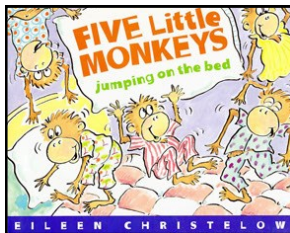
Bark, George
[Reserve this book](#)



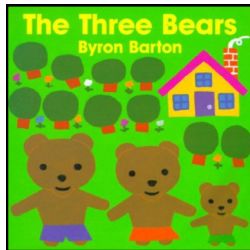
Book! Book! Book!
[Reserve this book](#)



Caps for Sale
[Reserve this book](#)



Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed
[Reserve this book](#)



The Three Bears
[Reserve this book](#)

Craft: Paper Bag Puppet

To further encourage your child's interest in storytelling and narrative skills, make an easy and fun paper bag puppet. Use the supplies you have at home. All you need is a paper bag, some glue and scissors. Look around your house for buttons, yarn, ribbons, feathers, etc. You can also use construction paper, and give your puppet some ears or arms. Don't forget the markers for the final touches. Once the puppet is finished, encourage your child to use his or her imagination and become the storyteller, while you sit back and enjoy the show.



Try this Fun Fingerplay with your Toddler or Preschooler:

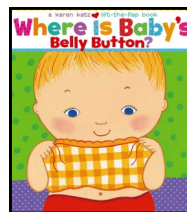
TOUCH YOUR NOSE

Touch your nose,
Touch your chin,
That's the way this game begins.
Touch your eyes,
Touch your knees,
Now pretend you're going to sneeze!
ACHOO!
Touch your hair,
Touch one ear,
Touch your two red lips right here.
Touch your elbows where they bend,
That is how this game will end!

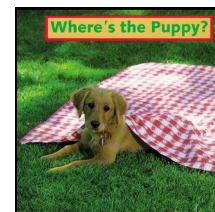


Board Books for Babies

Talk to your baby about what you are doing during the day. Read board books and ask questions about the illustrations.



Where is Baby's Belly Button?
[Reserve this book](#)



Where's the Puppy?
[Reserve this book](#)

Early Literacy App

Speech with Milo: Sequencing App



As part of a series created by a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist, this inexpensive iPad app helps kids learn sequencing and following directions, and can boost comprehension and narrative skills through storytelling.