



# 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 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:

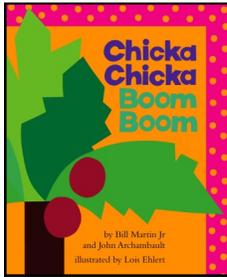
## Letter Knowledge

Children who know the shapes, names and sounds of the letters of the alphabet, and how to write them, have a much easier time learning to read.

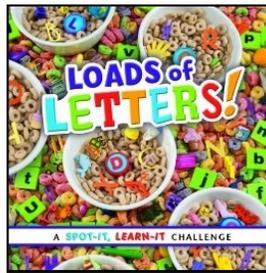
**Here are some ways to help your young child learn about letters:**

- Talk about and play with shapes. Learning about shapes is the first stage of recognizing letters for babies.
- Young children usually learn the letters in their name first. They are their favorite letters! Write your child's name where she can see it often, and have your child write her name in their own way.
- Sing the alphabet song together and play with rhymes.
- Let your child play with magnet letters and blocks that have letters on them.
- Read alphabet books together. As they get older, you can make an alphabet book with them.
- Point out and name letters when reading books, signs, or labels. As they get older, have your child name them.
- Write words that interest your child using crayons or magnetic letters.
- When your child is writing, encourage her to spell words by using what she knows about sounds and letters.

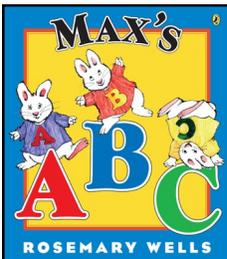
## Great Alphabet Books to Read with Your Child:



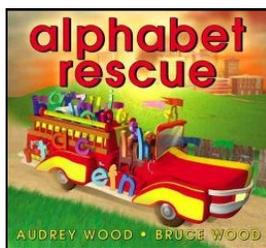
**Chicka Chicka Boom Boom**  
[Reserve this book](#)



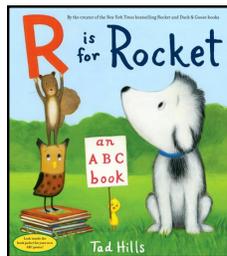
**Loads of Letters!**  
[Reserve this book](#)



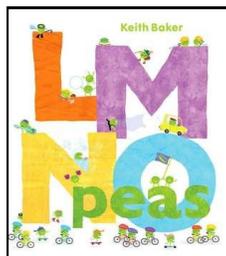
**Max's ABC**  
[Reserve this book](#)



**Alphabet Rescue**  
[Reserve this book](#)



**R is for Rocket: An ABC Book**  
[Reserve this book](#)



**LMNO Peas**  
[Reserve this book](#)

### Craft: Name Train

The first letters children learn are often the ones in their own name! Reinforce your child's letter knowledge by creating this fun name train craft. Using construction paper, cut out the train engine and one rectangle (train car) for each letter in your child's name. Write one letter on each rectangle. Glue the engine and cars on a background piece of paper. Cut out and glue or draw wheels for the cars. Draw tracks under the wheels. Add some cotton balls to look like steam coming from the engine. Display the completed name train in your child's room or on the refrigerator.



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

### Alphabet Beat

First clap your hands. Then stomp your feet.  
 Everybody do the alphabet beat.  
 Apple, Apple, Apple – a – a – a,  
 Apple, Apple, Apple – a – a – a

Wave your arms high. Swing your arms low.  
 The alphabet beat is the way to go.  
 Blue, Blue, Blue – b – b – b  
 Blue, Blue, Blue – b – b – b

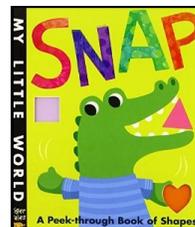
Move to the left. Move to the right.  
 The alphabet beat is way out of sight.  
 Car, Car, Car – c – c – c  
 Car, Car, Car – c – c – c

Now give a high five to a nearby friend.  
 The alphabet beat has come to the end!

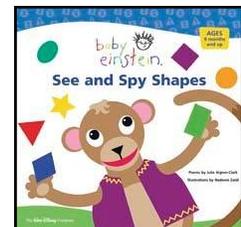


### Board Books for Babies

For babies, learning about shapes is the first stage of recognizing letters. Talking about and playing with shapes with your young child is part of their learning experience. Here are a few board books from our collection that can help your baby start to recognize and learn shapes.



**Snap : A Peek-through Book of Shapes**  
[Reserve this book](#)



**See and Spy Shapes**  
[Reserve this book](#)

### Early Literacy App

The fun, educational app **Endless Alphabet** teaches kids their letters and sounds and builds vocabulary while interacting with adorable monsters! While on the expensive side, this app has received rave reviews and has been voted as one the best early literacy apps for children. Want to give it a try before you buy? Come and test it out on our iPads at the library!

