



Early Literacy Newsletter



Issue 8
Jun - Aug 2016

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 five early literacy practices that parents can incorporate into their children's daily life.

These five practices are:

**Talking, Writing, Reading, Playing,
and Singing**

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 five Early Literacy practices is:

Writing

Writing and reading go together. Both represent spoken language and communicate information. Scribbling and writing help children learn that written words stand for spoken language. Children can learn pre-reading skills through writing activities.

Activities to do at home:

Note: Allow your child to select the hand they wish to write with. Hand items to your child or place them in front of him/her. Do not force writing instruments into a particular hand.

Babies:

- Encourage fine motor skills with fingerplay. (Itsy Bitsy Spider, Where is Thumbkin)
- Give your baby items to hold and manipulate in their hands.
- Speak to your baby and say words of items they see. (cat, mom, dish, etc.)
- Expose your child to books. Seeing words written will encourage reading and writing.
- Read to your child.

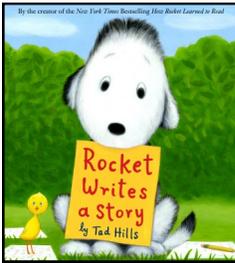
Toddlers:

- Provide your toddler with crayons in a supervised environment.
- Encourage playing with puzzles as this increases fine motor skills.
- Give your child snacks such as Cheerios to build muscles and coordination in hands and fingers.
- Read to your child. Picture dictionaries are a great activity. Point to the words as you read them to your child. Point out starting sounds (M is for Mom)

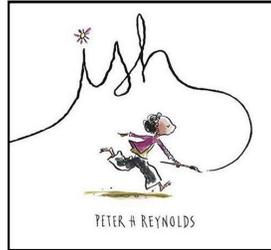
Preschoolers:

- Practice writing words. Start with their name.
- Provide supervised activities with scissors and writing instruments.
- READ - READ - READ.

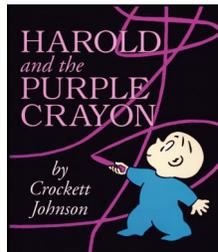
Great books that encourage writing & drawing:



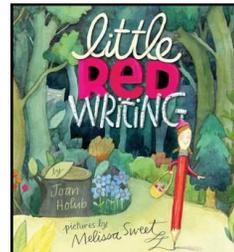
Rocket Writes a Story
[Reserve this book](#)



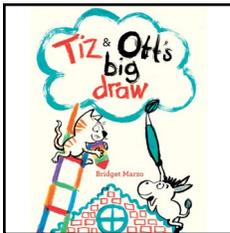
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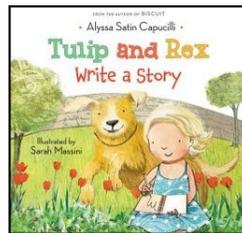
Harold and the Purple Crayon
[Reserve this book](#)



Little Red Writing
[Reserve this book](#)



Tiz & Ott's Big Draw
[Reserve this book](#)



Tulip and Rex Write a Story
[Reserve this book](#)

Activities to Try at Home

Fine motor skill activities help get hand muscles strong and ready to properly hold a pencil. Try some of these fine motor skill activities with your little one at home:

- * Games/activities using an eyedropper, a clothespin or a pair of tweezers
- * Paper ripping games/activities/art projects
- * Coloring/tracing with crayons
- * Stringing beads/pasta
- * Playing with puzzles
- * Playing with playdough
- * Playing with Legos
- * Lacing cards
- * Using stickers



Try this Fun Fingerplay with your Toddler or Preschooler:

FUZZY WUZZY CATERPILLAR



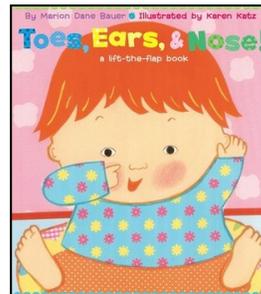
Fuzzy wuzzy caterpillar
 Into a corner will creep.
 (wiggle pointer finger like a caterpillar
 and make it crawl into opposite hand)
 He'll spin himself a blanket
 And then fall fast asleep.
 (spin hands around each other, then put
 them together under your head
 and pretend to sleep)
 Fuzzy wuzzy caterpillar
 Wakes up by and by.

(stretch and yawn like you are waking up)
 Stretches out his lovely wings,
 Now he's a butterfly!
 (flap your arms fly around
 the room like a butterfly)

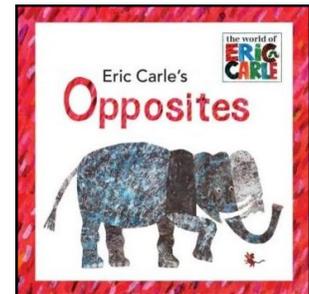


Board Books for Babies

Encourage fine motor skills in your baby with board books that have flaps to open and close.



Toes, Ears, & Nose!
[Reserve this book](#)



Eric Carle's Opposites
[Reserve this book](#)

Early Literacy App



Little Writer is an easy to use, inexpensive app that encourages writing practice. It includes an opportunity to practice tracing shapes, numbers, upper and lower case letters and words. The app promotes correct letter and number formation and reinforces the name of the letter, number, shape or word being traced.