



Early Literacy Newsletter



Issue 9
Sept - Nov 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:

Reading

Reading together is the single most important way to help children get ready to read. Shared reading increases vocabulary and general knowledge. It helps children learn how print looks and how books work. Children who enjoy being read to are more likely to want to learn to read themselves.

Activities to do at home:

Note: Model reading to your child—if your child sees you reading, he/she will most likely enjoy reading, too. Show your child the importance of signs around you. For example—“There’s the exit sign—that’s how we get out of the store.”

Babies:

- Have Board books available for baby to look at—try “reading” the books.
- Have baby imitate sounds—have an animal picture and tell child the sound it makes.
- Sing the “ABC” song.

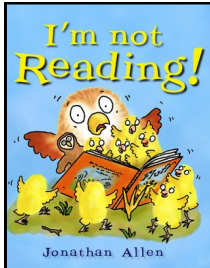
Toddlers:

- Use puppets to tell a story.
- Have your child retell a story with puppets.
- Look at pictures and make up a story about what could be happening.

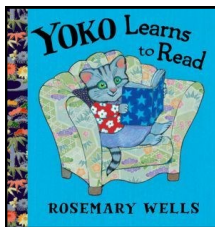
Preschoolers:

- Provide letter magnets or felt letters and “write” simple words like “cat,” “dog”.
- Draw pictures and label what they are.
- Have children draw pictures for a story and tell you the story. You write the words to create a little book.
- Label objects around the house using index cards.
- Stop before a predictable word or line in a book and ask the child to chime in.
- Discuss the meaning of unfamiliar words.

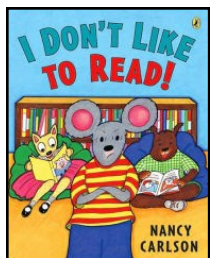
Great books about reading:



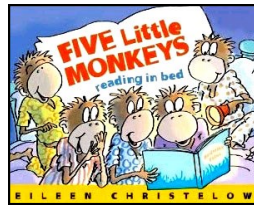
I'm Not Reading!
[Reserve this book](#)



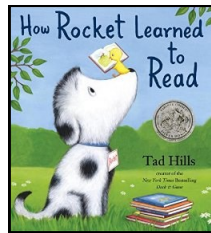
Yoko Learns to Read
[Reserve this book](#)



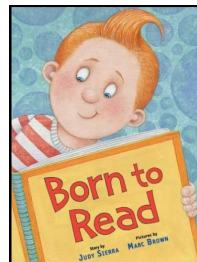
I Don't Like to Read!
[Reserve this book](#)



Five Little Monkeys Reading in Bed
[Reserve this book](#)

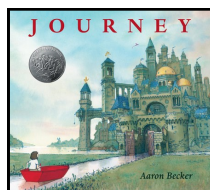


How Rocket Learned to Read
[Reserve this book](#)



Born to Read
[Reserve this book](#)

Art Activity: Draw Your Own Adventure



Wordless picture books are told entirely through their illustrations. They are books without words, or sometimes just a few words. Sharing wordless

books with a child provides an opportunity for them to create their own story in their own words. After reading the wordless picture book *Journey* by Aaron Becker use sidewalk chalk and draw your own adventure. Have your child tell you the story they have drawn to help increase their vocabulary and storytelling skills. If you don't have a place outside or if it's too cold, make a small book out of paper and help your child draw their story.

Try this Fun Fingerplay with your Toddler or Preschooler:

I LIKE BOOKS!

I like books, I really do!

(put two thumbs up and nod head)

Books with stories and pictures, too.

(put out one hand out and then the other)

Books of birds and things that grow

(flap arms like a bird,

crouch down and grow like a plant)

Books of people we should know.

(walk fingers on arm, point to head)

Books of animals and places, too,

(use fingers to make animal ears on head, use arms to put a roof over head)

I like books, I really do!

(put two thumbs up and nod head)

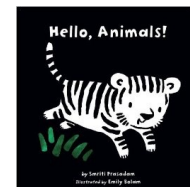


Board Books for Babies

Books that offer high-contrast images are great for your infant's developing eyes. As your baby gets older, he'll start identifying the images with the words you read.



Black & White
[Reserve this book](#)



Hello, Animals!
[Reserve this book](#)

Early Literacy App



Bob Books #1 - Reading Magic is an educational app based on stories from Bob Books Beginning Readers. By slowly introducing new letter

sounds and using consistency, repetition and stories that fit short attention spans these phonics-based games will show your child how to:

- Combine letters and sounds of the alphabet.
- Read and sound out simple words and sentences.
- Spell the words they've read.