



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 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.

This issue is all about:

Sensory Literacy Activities

Sensory play is any activity that stimulates a young child's five senses: touch, taste, smell, sight and sound. Sensory literacy is a teaching strategy that uses sensory activities to develop motor, language and reading skills. This month's newsletter will provide you with a variety of fun sensory activities that promote the five early literacy practices.

Sensory activities that promote literacy:

- Fill a plastic tub with rice. Bury a variety of objects in the rice all starting with the same letter - for example buttons, (plastic) bugs, balls, etc. Have your child find the items. Talk about each item - what it is, what color it is, what it feels like, what letter it starts with and the sound that letter makes.
- Put sand or shaving cream on a cookie sheet. Have your child draw shapes or write letters with her finger in the sand/shaving cream.
- Using colorful pom-poms and some tweezers or a clothes pin, have your child sort the pom-poms by color.
- Buy a variety of fruits. Talk about each kind. Ask, "What kind of fruit is this? What does it look like - shape, color, etc? What does it feel/smell like? How does it taste?"
- Using a familiar tune like "Happy Birthday to You," sing the spelling of your child's name.
- Write the letters of the alphabet or your child's name on a big piece of construction paper. Using some paint and a Q-tip, have your child trace the letters.
- Label your house. Put the word "door" on the doors, "chair" on the chairs, etc. Visually seeing household items labeled can help young children understand that print has meaning.

Talking

Singing

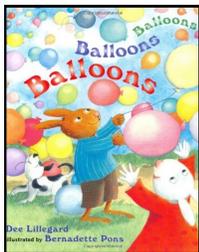
Reading

Writing

Playing

Here are some sensory activities to do that go along with the five early literacy practices !

Talking



After reading “Balloons, Balloons, Balloons” by Dee Lillegard create sensory balloons for your child to explore. Put a variety of materials such as marbles, coffee beans, water, salt,

rice, etc. in unblown-up balloons (make sure to tie up the balloons after putting each material inside). Allow your child to interact with each balloon. Talk about how it feels, looks, smells and sounds. Ask your child what they think is inside each balloon.

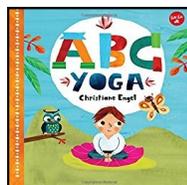


Singing



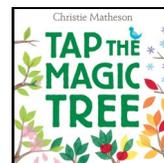
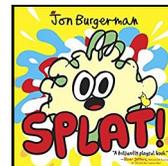
Singing the ABC song is how many children discover the alphabet. By adding movement, you can turn the ABC song into a new multi-sensory learning experience for your child. Invite

your child to dance around the room as she sings the ABC song. Give her props to inspire her movements, such as streamers, a long scarf, or a big square of flowing fabric. She could dance like a ballerina on her toes or march to the beat like a soldier. For even more ABC movement fun, use the book ABC Yoga by Christiane Engel. Have your child do the various yoga poses as you go through each letter of the alphabet.

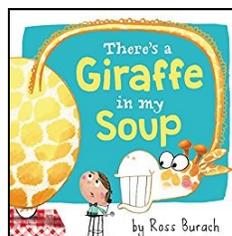


Reading

Reading interactive books that require kids to lift, peek, press, fold, search, etc. is a great way to really get them excited about books and physically involved in what they are reading. Share “Splat” by Jon Burgerman or “Tap the Magic Tree” by Christie Matheson with your child and watch the fun begin!



Playing



Read “There’s a Giraffe in my Soup” by by Ross Burach. Then create your own “soup” by tearing up coupons, newspaper ads and junk mail. Put the torn up paper in a big pot. Use

spoons to stir the “soup”. Pretend that you’re at a restaurant. Let your child spoon out the “soup” into smaller bowls and serve it to you. You may even want to have them hide a plastic animal or two in the bowl as a surprise!



Writing



Practice "Yarn Lacing" with your child! Punch holes in a piece of paper, foam or paper plate randomly or in a shape of your choosing and have your child

lace string, ribbon or yarn through the holes. Shoelaces work well for this due to the hard tip that makes it easier to thread. Yarn lacing is a great way to build the motor skills required for writing later on. After yarn lacing, snuggle up and read *Extra Yarn* by Mac Barnett.

