



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.

One of the five Early Literacy practices is:

Talking

Talking with children is one of the best ways to help them learn new words and information. Children learn language and other early literacy skills by listening to their parents and others talk. As children hear spoken language, they learn new words and what they mean. They learn about the world around them and important general knowledge.

Activities to do at home:

Note: Speak to your child in the language you know best.

Babies:

- Encourage babble - imitate what they say
- Stay silent so they can talk back
- Use all kinds of words even if they don't understand
- Speak in "Parentese"- elongated vowels, high pitch, exaggerated facial expressions and short, simple sentences

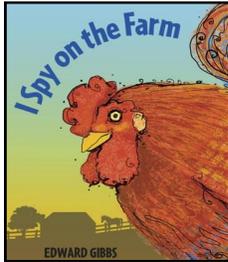
Toddlers:

- Add signing to their babble to help your child be understood- signing aids in speech development
- Narrate what you are doing- "I'm folding the socks and then I'm going to put them away."
- Ask your toddler to tell you about something that happened to him or her today; ask for more details so your child can expand on the story

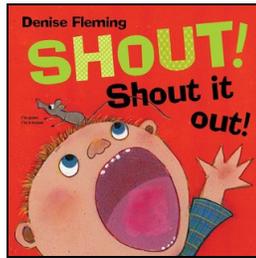
Preschoolers:

- Ask questions that have more than a yes or no answer. This will get your child to think about possible answers and ask more questions.
- Ask open ended questions- "Why do you think that happened?"

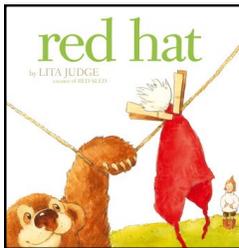
Great books that encourage talking:



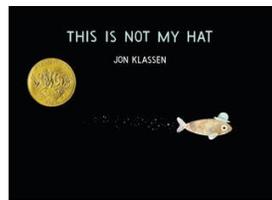
I Spy on the Farm
[Reserve this book](#)



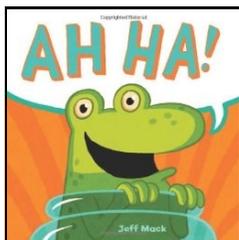
Shout! Shout it Out!
[Reserve this book](#)



Red Hat
[Reserve this book](#)



This is Not My Hat
[Reserve this book](#)



Ah Ha!
[Reserve this book](#)



The Lion and the Mouse
[Reserve this book](#)

Craft: Story Stick Puppets

Puppets are a great way to get kids talking and using their imaginations. Create your own stick puppets by printing and cutting out shapes of familiar story figures (i.e. 3 bears, 3 pigs, brown bear, etc.) or make your own with construction paper and markers. Color the figures and then glue each figure onto its own craft stick. Use the figures as puppets to retell a favorite story or make up a new story!



Try this Fun Fingerplay with your Toddler or Preschooler:

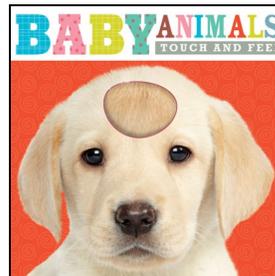
THE LITTLE BUNNY

A fat little bunny with ears so tall,
 (put hands on head like ears)
 And two little eyes—just this small (point to eyes)
 Went hopping along to get some lunch.
 (pretend to hop)
 He found an orange carrot—crunch, crunch, crunch.
 (pretend to eat a carrot)
 While he was eating and having such fun,
 CRASH went a noise! He started to run!
 (clap when say “crash”)
 All you could see as he went racing by
 (hand over eyes like looking in distance)
 Was his powderpuff tail waving good-bye.
 (wave good-bye)

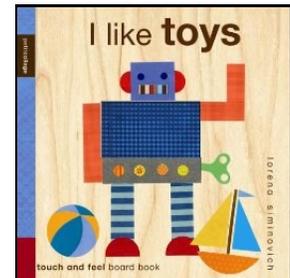


Board Books for Babies

Use touch-and-feel books to explore and talk with your baby about different textures.



Baby Animals: Touch and Feel
[Reserve this book](#)



I Like Toys: A Touch and Feel Board Book
[Reserve this book](#)

Early Literacy App

Mother Goose on the Loose is a free nursery rhyme flannel board app designed for young children to use together with parents and caregivers. Kids can move and interact with felt pieces from favorite nursery rhymes and songs. A great app for story telling and imaginative play!

