



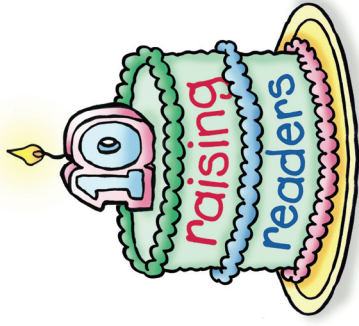
**The Maine Family Literacy Initiative and Raising Readers
are pleased to present “Literacy Explorer Kits”.**

Each Literacy Explorer Kit provides theme activities for the 2010 Raising Readers Collection, and the kits include the following:

- General Reading Tips and Developmental Information for the different age groups.
- A Playgroup Map that contains: discussion activities, literacy extensions, craft and snack ideas, and parent education tips. Some include science and math ideas that relate to the book.
- Parent and Child Together Time Idea Sheets that assist parents in extending the learning from the playgroup. The PACT sheet provides simple ideas for families to do together around the book, such as craft ideas and songs to sing together.
- An Explorer Bag Information Sheet lists items that can be placed in a take home “Explorer Bag” for families.
- A Journal Sheet for the parent. They can reflect on the activities they did with their child. A portion of the journal sheet is for the Family Literacy Provider to “write back” to the parent.
- Reference and Resource List

Family Literacy Providers can determine which activities will work best with their families. *All activities should be supervised by a parent or caregiver.* Most Playgroup Maps have activities for more than one playgroup. Each Playgroup Map has activities that match the Age Milestone listed by the book on the Raising Readers’ Book List. Groups Newborn through 18 Months also have ideas for the general preschool age.

Happy Reading and Playing!



BOOK LIST 2010

Celebrating 10 years and almost 1.5 million books given to children in Maine.
For more information call 1-800-397-3263 or visit www.raisingreaders.org

Newborn



*Read To Your Bunny
Very First Library*
by Rosemary Wells



Baby's World?
DK Publishing
A Red Train
Boxcar Books



2 months



*Little Scholastic
Colors*
Scholastic Inc

4 months



Baby Faces
by Margaret Miller

6 months



*Rainbow Colors
Peekaboo!*
DK Publishing

9 months



Peek-a-Boo WHO?
by Simms Taback

12 months



Walk with Me!
by Stella Blackstone

15 months



*If You're Happy
and You Know It!*
by Jane Cabrera

18 months



Two at the Zoo
by Danna Smith

2 years



Little Blue Truck
by Alice Schertle

3 years



Bob
by Tracey Campbell Pearson

4 years



A Visitor for Bear
by Bonny Becker

5 years

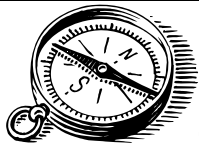


*Books From Maine:
A Raising Readers
Collection*



Walk with Me! by Stella Blackstone

This kit includes the following:



General Reading Tips & Developmental Information
(Place a copy in "Explorer Bags")



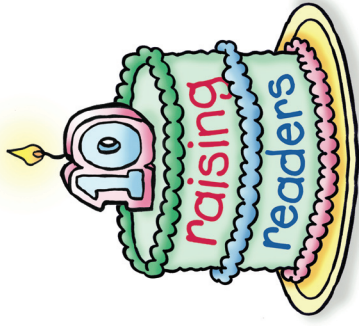
Playgroup Map - Theme Related Activities



Parent and Child Together Time Ideas
(Place a copy in "Explorer Bags" with needed supplies)



Explorer Bag Information Sheet
(Place a copy in "Explorer Bags")



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General Reading Tips & Developmental Information

General Reading Tips:

- ✓ Read to your baby every day. Make it part of your routine and have a set time to read: before bed or naptime, after a bath.
- ✓ Cuddle while you read - make baby feel safe and loved.
- ✓ Reading will help build your child's vocabulary, stimulate his imagination, and improve his communication skills.
- ✓ Babies enjoy the singsong rhythm and playful words in nursery rhymes. Read with expression - use different voices and make facial expressions.
- ✓ Store books in your diaper bag - they are great to have while stuck in traffic or waiting for an appointment.

For your 12 Month Old:

- ✓ Babies start to understand that pictures are objects. He/she will start to have favorite pictures, pages, and as they approach 12 months favorite books!
- ✓ Encourage your baby to hold the book and he/she will start "helping" you turn the pages by the time he/she is 12 months old! He/she will flip many pages at the same time.
- ✓ Don't worry about reading the story perfectly. Stop and ask questions or point out pictures.
- ✓ Babies love repetition, so don't be afraid to keep reading the same book over and over again.
- ✓ Help your baby build his/her vocabulary by reading and naming people and objects in his/her environment.

Developmental Milestones You May Notice:

- ✓ Baby is pulling him/herself up and begins to take steps.
- ✓ Begins to test how you respond to their actions and cries.
- ✓ Understands several words and simple commands. Waves bye.
- ✓ Begins to develop attachment and affection for certain objects.
- ✓ Tries to imitate animal sounds - loves books that show animals and says the noise they make.



Playgroup Map

Walk with Me! by Stella Blackstone

<p><i>Read the Book:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk with Me! Explores how animals move through a lift the flap book. The difference from other lift the flap animal books is that the children are from around the world. • There is repetitive text asking, “Who can...do something?” • While reading the book, emphasize the question and lifting the flap. Have children guess what is underneath the first time you read it. • There is a lot to point at in this story. Play an I spy game with toddlers. Ask, “Can you find the camel, the red mittens, etc.?”
<p><i>Literacy Extensions:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let’s Move! (this idea is in the PACT sheet also) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explore with your child different ways that they move. ○ Do they crawl, hop, walk, run, skip, etc.? Pick movements that are appropriate to their age. • Animal Charades – play this simple version without charade cards after you read the book a few times and explore together how the animals move. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each family pretends to be an animal from the book. They will, slide like a snake, clop like a donkey. ○ For older children, you can make picture charade cards. • At the end of the book, everyone is dancing! Put on some happy music and dance together. March around the play area and take out the instruments.
<p><i>Science:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The children in this book are from around the world. This makes for a great discussion about how we look different, but are the same on the inside. Look at the pictures and observe differences. For example, “This little girl has yellow hair in pigtails. That is cute. Oh, look this little girl has dark, wavy hair. That is pretty.” • You can have children count how many people have brown, blue, or green eyes at the playgroup. This can be done with hair and skin color. • An easy way to explore the “we are different, but the same” concept further is by using fruit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gather a few different colored apples. Slice them open, so the children can see that all of the apples are the same inside. ○ Explore this concept with other fruits that have similarities.
<p><i>Literacy Craft:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a multicultural snack book with families. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Talk with families about where they are from and ask if they have any special snacks that are unique to their heritage or family. Encourage families to share simple snack recipes. ○ Provide each family with paper that is lined on the bottom half and unlined on the top half. ○ Families write the recipe on the bottom of the paper and place a picture (hand drawn, from a magazine or computer) on the top part. ○ Make a copy for the snack book. Have families name their book,

	<p>and everyone should put their name on it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make copies for all families and assemble into recipe books. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Instructions for creating a “Lift the Flap” are in the PACT idea sheet section. You may want to start this craft at playgroup.
<i>Parent Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children who turn one start to assert their independence. They can be bossy ☺, and they start to test their boundaries. ● Work with parents on understanding appropriate expectations for this age group. Help them understand that toddlers are exploring their world and part of that is saying “No!” ● The movement game listed above “Let’s Move” is something parents can use to coax their children into movement. For example, if a child is resisting getting into their pajamas, “Let’s hop like a bunny into our jammies!” For a child who does not want to get in the tub, “Can we waddle like a duck into the tub? I bet you will start quacking when you feel the water!” ● Help parents understand that by offering choices to their toddler, they are helping them feel in control. For example, a toddler who does not want to put their shoes on (or who usually resists putting their shoes on) “Which shoe should we put on first? The left one or the right one?” “Would you like to sit or stand while mommy puts your shoes on?” ● Ask parents what is challenging in this area, and brainstorm solutions for games and options with the group. ● You may want to create a writing lesson out of the Snack Recipe Book idea listed in the Craft section. Explain to parents that this is Expository Writing – Writing that is informational. Have them double check their recipes to make sure they have listed all of their steps correctly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Want a fun way to model this idea? Make a Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich! Gather all of the ingredients (round snack crackers work well instead of bread) and have parents give you verbal instructions on how to make the sandwich. Follow their directions exactly as they tell you. You’ll be surprised at how silly this becomes! It is a great way to model informational writing, and they will be very careful when writing their recipes.
<i>Snack:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Share favorite snacks from the Snack Recipe Book created in the Craft section. ● Make Trees! (that look like the ones on the front cover of the book) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spread whipped cream cheese on a round snack cracker. Top with dried cranberries and/or raisins. ○ Use licorice or matchstick carrots as the trunk.



Parent and Child Together Time Ideas

Walk with Me! by Stella Blackstone

READ THE BOOK:

- ❖ *Walk with Me!* is a fun lift the flap book that explores how animals move. For example, "Who can slide? I'm a snake I can."
- ❖ Have your child guess what is under the flap. Practice the movements of the different animals.
- ❖ Act out the story and do the animal movements while you read the book.
- ❖ Encourage your child to hold the book, lift the flaps, and turn the pages.

LET'S MOVE:

- ❖ Explore with your child different ways that they move.
- ❖ Do they crawl, hop, walk, run, skip, etc.? Pick movements that are appropriate to their age.
- ❖ Movement games are great to do when children do not want to do something. For example, "Let's hop like a bunny into our pajamas!"

ANIMAL CHARADES:

- ❖ You can play charades with your toddler after you explore this book and talk about how the animals move.
- ❖ Pretend to be a snake and slide, hop like a bunny.
- ❖ Your child will try to name the animal you are pretending to be.
- ❖ Younger children can point to the picture in the book.

CREATE A "LIFT THE FLAP" BOOK: (best for older toddlers)

- ❖ Gather 3 to 5 animal pictures. Cut from magazines or color in pictures provided in the Explorer Kit.
- ❖ Create a book from heavy paper like card stock.
 - Front and Back Page - decorate the pages, be creative!
 - Inside Pages - place one animal per page. Cover each animal with a piece of colored construction paper (use a different color for each page if possible). Using a glue stick, apply glue to the top part of the construction paper. You want to place the paper over the picture, so your child can "lift the flap".
 - Write the name of the animal on the side of the construction paper that faces the animal. When you lift the construction paper flap, you want to see the word.
 - Assemble the book by stapling it or using a three hole punch and stringing it together with yarn. Depending on the age of your child, you may need to cover the staples or string with duct tape.

SING A SONG:

Three Little Monkeys

Three little monkeys jumping on the bed! (bounce 3 fingers in the air)
One fell off and bumped his head! (gently bop head with hand)
Mama* called the doctor, and the doctor said, (dial telephone)
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!" (shake finger sternly)

(Repeat this two more times, counting down the monkeys, then...)

No little monkeys jumping on the bed!
None fell off and bumped their head!
Mama called the doctor, and the doctor said,
"Put those monkeys back to bed!"

* or Papa, Grandma, etc.



This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your Two Year Old
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
 - 3-5 animal pictures to color
 - 5 pieces of heavy paper (cardstock) that has been three hole punched
 - Crayons/markers
 - Colored construction paper
 - Yarn
 - Glue Stick
- Journal Activity Sheet



JOURNAL - *Walk with Me!* by Stella Blackstone

What did you like about the book *Walk with Me!*? What do you think your child's favorite part was?

Share something that your child does that you find very challenging. (For example, doesn't want to put shoes on, cries if doesn't get his way)

What PACT activity did you do with your child? What went well? What didn't go so well?

I'll write back to you here...

LITERACY EXPLORER KITS 2011

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Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics

www.healthychildren.org

Baby Center

www.babycenter.com

Candlewick Press, Raising Readers

Publisher Activity Sheets for *A Visitor for Bear* by Bonny Becker and *Bob* by Tracey Campbell Pearson

Everything Preschool – Early Childhood Education Made Easy

www.everythingpreschool.com

Medline Plus

www.nlm.nih.gov

Scholastic

www.scholastic.com

Songs for Teaching

www.songsforteaching.com

The Perpetual Preschool

www.perpetualpreschool.com

What To Expect

www.whattoexpect.com