



Celebrating 10 years and 1.3 Million Books

# Site Update

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## March is Raising Readers Month



*"Whereas, Raising Readers is celebrating its tenth year and has provided over 1.3 million books to Maine children, ages birth to five, at well-child visits with their healthcare provider...therefore, I, Governor John Baldacci, do hereby proclaim March 1 through 31<sup>st</sup> as Raising Readers Month."*

Gov. John Baldacci has named March **Raising Readers Month** in honor of the program's achievements over the last decade. The proclamation recognizes the contributions of the 1,400 healthcare providers and staff at the 365 participating sites that give books to children across the state, noting that children who are read to are more likely to have the early literacy skills they will need to succeed when they go to school.

## Prescription: Take a Child to the Library National Library Week (April 11 – 17)



Let's celebrate Maine libraries by prescribing a trip to the library along with each book given out in April. **National Library Week** is only seven days but we can encourage a love of books and reading by suggesting parents take their child to the library any time of year.

**Bright Idea:** Make a poster with the name and phone number of your local library and hang it in your waiting area. You might even include information on children's story hour.

## New at 18 months: **Two at the Zoo**



Families will benefit from reading **Two at the Zoo** after a visit to an animal farm or exploring wildlife in their own backyard. Changing the characters in the text to relate to the toddler's home experience can make the story even more enjoyable and meaningful. Plastic zoo animals can help make the story come alive. Pair up this whimsical tale with simple information books on animals to enhance the learning experience. *(Adapted from 2010 Early Literacy Calendar)*

Download and print information on the 2010 books for use as parent handouts by going to our website. Find them in the About Us section under 2010 Early Literacy Calendar. **Two at the Zoo** will begin shipping in April.

### Please Post\Share

Keep everyone at your site in the loop by posting or sharing this newsletter with all staff.

### Questions?

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