



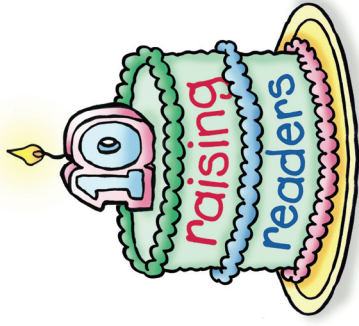
**The Maine Family Literacy Initiative and Raising Readers
are pleased to present “Literacy Explorer Kits”.**

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

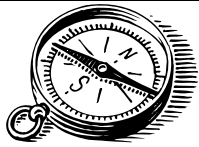


*Books From Maine:
A Raising Readers
Collection*



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

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")



General Reading Tips & Developmental Information

General Reading Tips:

- ✓ Read to your toddler 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 your toddler feel safe and loved.
- ✓ Reading will help build your child's vocabulary, stimulate his/her imagination, and improve his/her communication skills.
- ✓ 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 15 Month Old:

- ✓ Don't be surprised if your toddler walks off while you are reading or wants to stand or sit next to you. (Since learning to walk, who wants to sit still?)
- ✓ Story time may end abruptly or last for only a few minutes. That's okay - grab a few minutes to read when your toddler shows interest and keep your set reading time.
- ✓ Interactive books work best, touch and feel, turning dials, lift the flap, stories that move quickly.
- ✓ Let them read at their own pace, looking at pictures and asking questions for as long as they want to.
- ✓ Encourage play that allows them to use their imagination and creativity. Start acting out stories!
- ✓ Play simple games like puzzles and shape sorting.

Developmental Milestones You May Notice:

- ✓ Toddlers begin to understand that objects have purpose, a hairbrush is for brushing hair, a broom is for sweeping the floor.
- ✓ Language is developing - let your child know you are listening - make eye contact and talk back to your child even if you are not sure what he/she is saying.
- ✓ Be silly - they begin to realize when you are goofing around. They will laugh and giggle when you, fall down, eat off a plate like a doggy, do something unexpected.



Playgroup Map

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

<p>Read the Book:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If You're Happy and You Know It!</i> is a book developed from the nursery song. The author has added other movements that will really get families moving. Families will do nine different movements when reading this book. • Once families become familiar with the book, you can use the “song” to gather families for story times. Don't have time for all nine movements as a gathering song? Have children pick 2-3 movements from the book at different playgroups.
<p>Literacy Extensions:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage families to sing this song with children at home. It is a great song to sing during play time! Discuss different opportunities to use this happy song. • Have a marching parade with the instruments you create in the Craft Section. • Introduce other songs to families. Many times families are not familiar with songs to sing to their children. Singing them at playgroup allows them to become familiar with the tune and lyrics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Here are some to share: (also featured in PACT section) <p style="text-align: center;">Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Knees and Toes Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Knees and Toes And...eyes, and ears, and mouth, and nose. Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Knees and Toes</p> <p>(touch body part while singing the song, children love to sing this song S-L-O-W and FAST!)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A, B, C song Now I know my ABCs, Tell me what you think of me...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">There are other songs listed in the PACT idea sheet</p>
<p>Literacy Craft:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make Instruments from recyclable materials. (From National Children's Museum book, <i>Family Literacy Projects on a Budget</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can Shaker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place beans, pasta, or pebbles inside a clean 15 oz can with lid. • Tightly secure the lid of can with hot glue, masking tape or duct tape. ○ Shoebox Guitar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place rubber bands (4 or more of different widths), in order of thickness around a small shoebox (without lid). Place

	<p>them lengthwise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glue on decorations • Strum the guitar and sing a favorite tune! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pie Tin Cymbals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glue wooden spools or small knobs onto the back of two pie tins. • Decorate the pie tins with trim, ribbon, or paper. ○ Wrist Bells <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure child’s wrist and cut a piece of elastic (at least .5” wide) so that it will go comfortably around the wrist. • Sew the elastic to complete the circle. • Sew 6 jingle bells onto the elastic • The elastic can be worn on the wrist, ankle, or held in the hand. Shake! • This is a fun craft to make during a parent education class. ○ Tambourines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punch or poke 4-5 holes around a cardboard or plastic lid. • Weave a pipe cleaner through the holes, weaving jingle bells on at each hole. Secure pipe cleaner around the circle. • Shake your tambourine!
Parent Education:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toddlers change so quickly that it is hard sometimes for parents to accept that their “baby” is developing his/her own personality. • Review the Developmental Milestones for 15 month olds with parents. Have them share stories about how their child is developing his/her independence. What specific challenges are they facing? Have them share solutions. • Reading books to children at this age can become challenging. Toddlers are moving so quickly, that many times they do not want to sit still to read. Interactive, quick books work well and let parents know it is okay if their child walks away while they are reading. They can finish the book or join their child in their new activity. Some ideas to keep little readers engaged: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use sound affects ○ Focus on interactive books ○ Act out the story, ask questions, get silly! • Language skills are developing. Emphasize with parents that even if they can not understand everything their toddler is saying they can show they are interested by, maintaining eye contact, getting down to their level, nodding their head, and making comments back to their child.
Snack:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make Caterpillars (a colorful, healthy snack) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cover round snack crackers with whipped cream cheese. Assemble at least three crackers next to each to make the body of the caterpillar. ○ Use matchstick carrots for the legs, dried cranberries for the eyes, and thin black licorice for the antennas.



Parent and Child Together Time Ideas

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

READ THE BOOK:

- ❖ Get ready to "sing" this book! Your child will love singing this song and doing the movements.
- ❖ You will quickly memorize the words and be singing it while in the tub, car, or a stroller walk.
- ❖ Your child might want to make up movements and words for other animals or family pets. For example, "What might their teddy bear say or do as part of the song?"
- ❖ This book is great for toddlers because it involves movement. Many toddlers do not want to sit still to read a book, so get creative! Sing the lyrics, add movements, make different voices, and act out the stories!

MAKE SOUNDS:

- ❖ Gather pots, pans, measuring cups, metal and wooden spoons.
- ❖ Let your child experiment with sounds.
- ❖ This is a great activity for when you are making a meal.

MAKE A BOOK:

- ❖ Creating books from photos of you and your child is easy!
- ❖ Take pictures during an activity (bring your camera to playgroup or ask the Playgroup Coordinator to share any pictures taken at the playgroup)
- ❖ Glue pictures onto construction paper or heavy paper. Write a brief statement under each picture telling the story. For example, "Emily and Mommy stomped their feet while singing with their friends."
- ❖ Bring the pages of your book back to playgroup, so that they can be laminated.
- ❖ Assemble your book with string or yarn.
- ❖ Create more books and add to baby's library!

SING SONGS - Try these songs!

Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Knees and Toes
Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Knees and Toes
And...eyes, and ears, and mouth, and nose.
Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Knees and Toes

(touch body part while singing the song, children love to sing this song
S-L-O-W and FAST!)

Ring Around the Rosy

Ring Around the Rosy, a pocketful of Posie
Ashes, Ashes we all fall down.
(gather hands and march in circle, then "fall" down together)

Cows are in the meadow, eating Buttercups.
Thunder, lightening, we all jump up!
(bang hands on floor for thunder and lightening, then "jump" up)

The Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go round and round, round and round, round and round.
(roll hands over and over)

The wheels on the bus go round and round, all through the town.

(Use the same rhythm and add these verses..)

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish..
(move hands like wipers)

The doors on the bus go open and shut, open and shut, open and shut..
(clap hands in slow motion)

The driver on the bus says, "Move on Back! Move on Back! Move on Back!..."
(gesture over shoulder with thumb)

The babies on the bus go wah wah wah, wah wah wah, wah wah wah..
(use fists on eyes like crying)

The grown ups on the bus go shh shh shh, shh shh shh, shh shh shh..
(fingers to lips to shhh)



This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your 15 Month Old
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
 - 4-6 pictures of you and your child from playgroup
 - Different colored construction paper
 - Glue stick, crayons and markers
 - String or yarn
- Journal Activity Sheet



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

What did you like about the book *If You're Happy and You Know It*? What do you think your child's favorite part was?

What do you think your child's favorite song to sing is? Why do you think that?

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