

# Dear Child Care Provider

We are pleased to provide you with the 2010 Maine Early Literacy Calendar. This project is an ongoing collaboration between Maine Roads to Quality (MRTQ) and Raising Readers (RR), two organizations that believe in providing all of Maine's children with quality early learning environments, including those that nurture early literacy experiences.

The calendar features the books that Raising Readers will give to Maine children at well child visits throughout 2010. MRTQ staff developed information on each title that can support child care providers, or parents, in effectively using the book with their children.

## Maine Roads to Quality

1-888-988-0055

[www.muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads](http://www.muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads)

## Raising Readers

1-800-397-3263

[www.raisingreaders.org](http://www.raisingreaders.org)

Maine Roads to Quality, Maine's Early Care and Education Career Development Center, developed this calendar. Raising Readers, a family health and literacy program for Maine children ages birth to 5 years, funds the printing of the calendar. Anne Bernard designed the calendar.

## Here are some ways you might use Raising Readers books in your child care setting:

- 1 Create a bridge between early literacy experiences in the home and your child care.** Ask parents to send in the books their children receive at well child doctor's visits (you'll find that many of your kids have the same books). Experiencing the same book in the home and in child care multiplies its impact.
- 2 Include the information offered in the calendar in your parent newsletters.** Many of their children will have these books at home and this information will help parents understand how to enjoy the books with their kids.
- 3 Incorporate the books and related activities into your curriculum.** Many RR books include activities linked to the book that you can use in your program. These are located in the back of the book. Developed with the staff at MRTQ, the activities support the Infant Toddler and Preschool Learning Guidelines. Activities for additional books used in the program are available at [www.raisingreaders.org](http://www.raisingreaders.org).
- 4 Use the RR Topics Brochure** for recommendations on books that deal with common childhood issues. Available on the website, the Topics Brochure provides lists of recommended children's books on sibling rivalry, loss/grief, toilet training, etc. Use these books in your child care setting or print out a specific topic as a reference for parents.
- 5 Use the RR website** for read aloud tips, parent handouts and other information on early literacy skills. Visit: [www.raisingreaders.org](http://www.raisingreaders.org)

Included in the calendar is a pullout poster to display in your child care setting. It features many of the books distributed by Raising Readers in recent years—talk with parents about the books their children may have received.

We hope that you are inspired and encouraged by the information provided in this calendar. Literacy is an important part of our lives and teaching young children to enjoy all of its components will give them a gift for life.

## RAISING READERS THROUGH THE YEAR

