



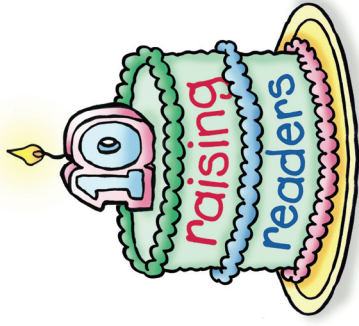
**The Maine Family Literacy Initiative and Raising Readers
are pleased to present “Literacy Explorer Kits”.**

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



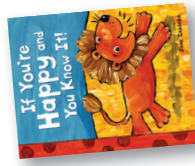
Peek-a-Boo WHO?
by Simms Taback

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

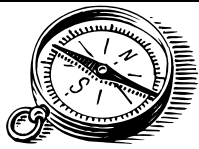


*Books From Maine:
A Raising Readers
Collection*



Peek a Boo WHO? by Simms Taback
DK Publishing

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:

- ✓ It's never too early to read to your baby. It is a great time to cuddle and bond.
- ✓ Reading will help build your child's vocabulary, stimulate his/her imagination, and improve his/her communication skills.
- ✓ Studies have shown that language skills — and even intelligence — are related to how many words an infant hears each day.
- ✓ Babies love to “mouth” books, so heavy duty board books or vinyl books are best for babies.
- ✓ Babies enjoy the singsong rhythm and playful words in nursery rhymes. Use different voices and facial expressions.

For your Nine Month Old:

- ✓ Read aloud for a few minutes at a time. It's okay to stop when your baby wants to stop reading.
- ✓ Board books with different, bright colors will be interesting to them. Choose books with different designs and patterns.
- ✓ Sing nursery rhymes, make funny animal sounds, or bounce your baby on your knee - anything that shows that reading is fun.
- ✓ Babies start to understand that pictures are objects. They will start to have favorite pictures, pages, and, as they approach 12 months, favorite books!
- ✓ Don't worry about reading the story perfectly. Stop and ask questions or point out pictures.
- ✓ Encourage your baby to hold the book. He/she may be turning pages by the time he/she is 12 months old!

Developmental Milestones You May Notice:

- ✓ Enjoys imitating people, prefers certain toys and people. (Your baby may be shy and anxious with strangers).
- ✓ Imitates gestures and likes interactive games, like peek a boo and patty cake.
- ✓ Explores objects in different ways: mouthing, banging, dropping.
- ✓ Starts to develop depth perception and knows objects exist even when out of sight.



Playgroup Map

Peek a Boo WHO? by Simms Taback

<p>Read the Book:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Peek a Boo WHO?</i> is a unique lift the flap book because the flap contains a cut out of the animal that is hiding underneath. • Explore the following with this book: peek a boo, animals, colors, and shapes. • Each page represents a game of peek a boo, so ask questions, “What animal do you think is under the flap? What color is the animal? What does the animal say? Which animal is your favorite?”
<p>Literacy Extensions:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cut out flap animals are similar to outlines. Try these ideas for outlines and shadow games. Best for preschoolers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have children lie on the ground and trace their shape with sidewalk chalk. They can then decorate their shadow self with other chalk colors. ○ Guess whose shadow? Turn off the lights and have child or family stand behind a white sheet. Project a light onto them using a flashlight or projector. Have the other families guess who is behind the sheet.
<p>Science:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child’s Silhouette <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have each child sit in profile (probably on parent’s lap) with a projector light beamed on them. The room should be dark. ○ Trace their face on a piece of white paper. Cut out and trace onto black paper and cut. Images can be framed. • Shadow Hunt! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go for a walk on a sunny day and have toddlers and preschoolers look for shadows. You may want to play a version of “Shadow Tag” that works for your age group.
<p>Literacy Craft:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many crafts can be made around animals! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Animal flaps – have families choose one animal from the book. They can trace the animal on construction paper, cut it out and glue it onto a second piece of construction paper. Decorate the picture with crayons/markers and other age appropriate craft materials. Glue a piece of construction paper (along the top, like a “strip”) over the picture creating a flap. If you want, use the original paper you cut the shape out of for the flap. This will match the book! ○ Pig noses – Cut the bottom of an egg carton, cutting each “cup”, so you end up with twelve “noses”. Have children paint or color their noses pink. Mark nostrils using a black marker. Hole punch either side of carton and run yarn through it. Children can wear their “noses”.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rainbow Fishes – Give each family a shape of a fish cut out from cardstock. Provide 3x3 pieces of tissue or crepe paper. Have families “crinkle” the paper, dip it into white glue, and place on the fish using different colors. Toddlers will love the sound of the tissue paper and love dipping into the white paint. (A Cotton Bunny craft is featured in the PACT idea sheet, so if you choose not to do Rainbow Fish during playgroup you can offer either for a take home activity) ○ Marble Cows - Precut cow shapes on white construction paper or white cardstock. Have children use black paint to “marble” paint the cow. If you want, paste the cow onto a second piece of construction paper and continue decorating the cow with leaves, twigs, and grass.
<i>Parent Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nine month olds love to imitate animals and people. Make different animal sounds with parents and talk about ways to incorporate this in their play, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make animal noises, have the child guess the animal. ○ Make funny faces and play peek-a-boo with hands and while getting baby dressed. ● Babies at this age have depth perception. They understand that even if they can’t see an object anymore it still exists. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Try peek-a-boo by placing an object (cup, ball, doll) under a blanket or small towel. Ask baby, “Where did the ball go?” ○ Try placing the object behind a book, around a door, behind parent’s back. ○ Babies are developing their sense of humor and will understand that their parent is doing something funny.
<i>Snack:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pig Slop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Talk with children about what pigs eat for their meals. A mix of leftovers that the farmer gives them. ○ Have bowls of “mixable” foods, such as M&Ms, pretzels, goldfish, etc. Children can mix and make their own “slop”. ● Choose a variety of healthy snacks for all ages of the playgroup. Model healthy snack choices and talk about options for different ages. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gather round – have a spot for everyone. Parents with newborns can be a part of snack time, too! ○ Simple snack ideas: cut up bananas, soft crackers and yogurt



Parent and Child Together Time Ideas

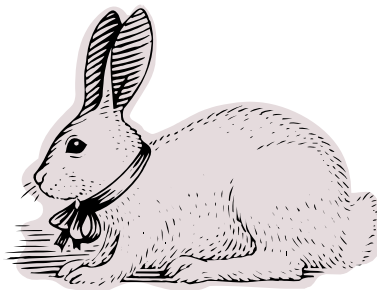
Peek a Boo WHO? by Simms Taback

READ THE BOOK:

- ❖ This is fun, brightly colored book that explores the game peek-a-boo.
- ❖ Your child will want to help you lift the flap.
- ❖ Play a guessing game by asking these questions:
 - What animal do you think is under the flap?
 - What color is the animal?
 - What does the animal say?
 - Which animal is your favorite?
- ❖ Emphasize the WHO!! when reading Peek-A-Boo WHO? Your child will be excited by your enthusiasm and giggle as you try to "remember" what is underneath the flap.

COTTON BALL BUNNIES:

- ❖ You may have made Rainbow Fishes during playgroup. This craft is similar.
- ❖ Cut out a picture of a bunny onto construction paper or card stock.
- ❖ Have your child dip cotton balls (white or colored) into white glue.
- ❖ Place cotton balls on the bunny, creating a soft bunny to touch!



PIG SLOP:

- ❖ You may have made this during playgroup.
- ❖ Talk about what farmers feed pigs - slop! Any table scraps left from the farmer's meal or the other farm animals' meal is mixed together and put in the pig's trough.
- ❖ Provide bowls of mixable items, such as, goldfish, M&Ms, pretzels. Allow your child to mix the items and make "slop".

SING A SONG:

- ❖ Sing "Old MacDonald had a Farm" using the animals from the book.

Old Macdonald had a farm, E I E I O
And on this farm he had a PIG, E I E I O
With an oink, oink, here and an oink, oink there,
Here an oink, there an oink, everywhere an oink, oink,
Old Macdonald had a farm, E I E I O

Repeat with cat, bunny, elephant, fish, duck, turtle, and cow.

- What does your child think the bunny, fish, and turtle says?
 - Do they want to do a hand motion instead of a sound? For example, lift an arm for an elephant's trunk, or crawl slowly for a turtle.
- ❖ Sing this lap song with your child:

This Little Cow

This little cow eats grass (count out cows on fingers)
This little cow eats hay
This little cow does nothing
But lie in the sun all day
Let's chase her, let's chase her,
Let's chase her away!
(run fingers up baby's arm and tickle gently under chin)



This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your Baby and Toddler
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
 - White cut out of bunny
 - Cotton balls and White Glue
 - A few sandwich bags filled with items like, M&Ms, goldfish, raisins, pretzels
- Journal Activity Sheet



JOURNAL - *Peek a Boo WHO?* by Simms Taback

What did you like about the book *Peek a Book WHO?* What do you think your child's favorite part was?

(1) Do you play peek-a-boo with your child? How do they respond to the game?

(2) What other songs and lap games do you play with your child?

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