



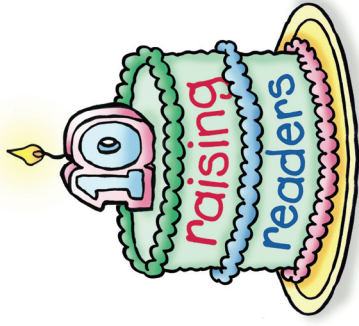
**The Maine Family Literacy Initiative and Raising Readers  
are pleased to present “Literacy Explorer Kits”.**

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](http://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



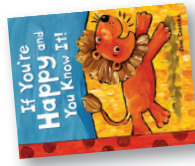
*Peek-a-Boo WHO?*  
 by Simms Taback

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

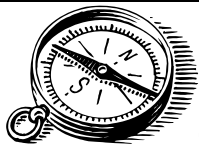


*Books From Maine:  
 A Raising Readers  
 Collection*



***Rainbow Colors Peekaboo***  
**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 Six 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!
- ✓ Now it is time to start a routine for reading - try to find a set time to read every day, like before bed, nap, or bath. (you can still read whenever you want to!)

### Developmental Milestones You May Notice:

- ✓ Begins to move items from hand to hand and uses a “raking” grasp.
- ✓ Enjoys looking at their image in a mirror and responds to different expressions.
- ✓ Explores with hands and mouth.
- ✓ Tries to get objects that are out of their reach.
- ✓ Practices until they understand how things work, so it's important to do the same thing over and over and over again!



## Playgroup Map

*Rainbow Colors Peekaboo* DK Publishing

<p><b>Read the Book:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This book combines colors, textures, and interactive games, such as lifting flaps and memory games. Children will also love looking at the different babies and toddlers.</li> <li>• The first time you read this book with families, have children guess what is under the flap. The next time you read the book, children will most likely shout out what is under the flap.</li> <li>• Emphasize the word “Peek-a-boo” each time you lift the flap. You will play a peek a boo game with families – see Literacy Extension section.</li> <li>• Give families turns lifting the flaps and feeling the different textures.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Literacy Extensions:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before this playgroup, assign each family a color or write colors on strips of paper and have families draw a color.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Each family should arrive at playgroup wearing their color (some part of clothing, for example, shirt, socks, hair accessory). If you feel that some families will need funding support with this activity, provide inexpensive colored t-shirts, socks, or strips of fabric to wear as a sash for ALL families.</li> <li>○ Sometimes you can find inexpensive colored t-shirts at discount stores.</li> <li>○ Play a color game – families stand up by their color when named in the book, make a playgroup rainbow. Sing this song with families and have them stand up when they hear their color:                 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sing to “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes”</b>                      Red, yellow, green and blue green and blue                      Red, yellow, green and blue green and blue                      Purple, orange, brown and black                      Red, yellow, green and blue green and blue</p> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Play Peek-a-Boo – model the game for families and encourage them to play at home with their child!</li> </ul>
<p><b>Science:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up a Texture Station!             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Take a large piece of cardboard that you can place on the wall (toddler level) or lay it on the floor.</li> <li>○ Create sections for different textures:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Packing bubbles, foil, fur, felt, sand paper.</li> <li>▪ Make sure items are safe for children to touch and secured to cardboard.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Have families visit the station. Model questions, “Which is the softest? Do you think this feels rough or smooth?”</li> <li>○ This idea also featured in <i>Little Scholastic Colors</i>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Color Pyramid – making colors – this is messy, but fun! (works best for</li> </ul>

	<p>preschoolers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dip child’s hand in Yellow paint and place at the very top of paper.</li> <li>○ Dip other hand in Red paint and place at the very bottom left corner of paper.</li> <li>○ Rub hands together to create Orange and place a hand print in between the Red and Yellow.</li> <li>○ Wash their hands.</li> <li>○ Dip a hand in Blue paint and place at the very bottom right corner of paper.</li> <li>○ Dip the other hand in Red and rub hands together to create Purple. Place a handprint between the Red and Blue handprints.</li> <li>○ Wash their hands.</li> <li>○ Dip a hand in Blue and a hand in Yellow and rub together to create Green. Place this print between the Blue and Yellow.</li> <li>○ You now have a Pyramid of Colors!</li> <li>○ (You can do this with foot prints – let children run down a banner of paper.)</li> </ul>
<b><i>Literacy Craft:</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rainbow Bottles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Take a 16 or 20 ounce plastic soda bottle. Rinse it out and take the label off.</li> <li>○ Fill the bottle halfway with water and halfway with corn syrup. Add glitter (crayon shavings also), plastic/metal confetti.</li> <li>○ Secure cap tightly and secure with duct tape.</li> <li>○ Let children roll and shake bottle to see the different colors.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Rainbow Filter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Let children color white coffee filters with markers.</li> <li>○ Fill a spray bottle with water. Let children “spray” their coffee filters.</li> <li>○ Watch the colors mix together.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b><i>Parent Education:</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Babies change a lot at 6 months. Review developmental milestones with parents.</li> <li>● A great topic for this age group is baby’s routine. What is baby’s day like? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sleeping, eating, and READING? Encourage parents to find one time during the day to read to their baby.</li> <li>○ Ask them how they provide literacy experiences for their 6 month old?</li> <li>○ Brainstorm with families best times to read with baby (rested and fed). Establishing a reading time after bath and before bed time helps babies begin to understand their routine.</li> <li>○ Remind parents to watch for baby’s cues. If the baby is tired or disinterested, put the book away for another time.</li> <li>○ Babies at this age like repetition. Encourage parents to read the book over and over again. They will begin to notice that baby has favorite books and favorite pages!</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

***Snack:***

- Rainbow Jell-O Snacks
  - Make all six colors of Jell-O: cherry, orange, lemon, lime, berry blue, and grape.
  - After the Jell-O has set, spoon one spoonful of each flavor into a clear, plastic cup.
  - Top with a “cloud” of whip cream.
  - You have an edible Rainbow!
- Friendship Fruit Salad:
  - Put the names of fruit salad ingredients (bananas, watermelon, blueberries) on different pieces of paper.
  - Have each family select one piece of paper and bring the fruit to playgroup.
  - Mix the fruits together and you have Friendship Fruit Salad.
  - Supply the fruit if you feel your families do not have the funds to purchase them. The family draws the piece of paper and that is the fruit they prepare for the fruit salad.
  - This snack is also featured in *Little Beaver and The Echo*.
- Choose a variety of healthy snacks for all ages of the playgroup. Model healthy snack choices and talk about options for different ages.
  - 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

*Rainbow Colors Peekaboo* DK Publishing

### READ THE BOOK:

- ❖ This is a perfect book for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers!
- ❖ You can talk about colors, textures, and the game peek-a-boo.
- ❖ Babies especially will love to try to lift the flap to see the baby underneath.
- ❖ Once your child is familiar with the book, get silly with the peek-a-boo guesses. Pretend you do not know what is under the flap. Have your child "help" you guess.

### TISSUE PAPER RAINBOWS:

- ❖ This activity is for supervised toddlers or preschoolers.
- ❖ Give your child different colors of tissue paper or crepe paper. (cut or tear them into 3x3 squares)
- ❖ Pour white glue onto a paper plate.
- ❖ Have your child slightly crumple the tissue paper and dip it into the glue.
- ❖ Place colored tissue paper on heavy paper to create a rainbow!

### COLOR SONG:

- ❖ Dress in a mix match outfit of red, yellow, green, blue, purple, orange, brown and black.
- ❖ Be creative in how you find your items. For example, you may have mix matched socks, colored sashes, hats, scarves, etc.
- ❖ You can also gather colored objects to hold up while singing.
- ❖ You may have sung this song at playgroup:

**Sing to "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes"**

Red, yellow, green and blue green and blue

Red, yellow, green and blue green and blue

Purple, orange, brown and black

Red, yellow, green and blue green and blue

As you sing the song, point to the color you are wearing or hold the object up. Sing the song *S-L-O-W*, sing the song *FAST!*

## **LAP SONGS:**

- ❖ Six month old babies will enjoy these Lap Songs. Place your baby on your lap facing you.

### **Row, Row, Row Your Boat**

Row, row, row your boat  
Gently down the stream,  
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,  
Life is but a dream!  
(“row” baby’s arms in time)

Rock, rock, rock your boat

Gently down the stream,  
If you see a crocodile,  
Don’t forget to scream!

AAAAAH! (be silly with your scream, start the giggles!)  
(rock baby back and forth gently on your lap)

### **Pat-a-cake**

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, (clap hands together in time with the words)  
Baker’s man  
Bake me a cake  
As fast as you can!

Roll it, and pat it. (roll hands over each other, then pat)  
And mark it with a B (draw “B” on one hand with finger)  
And put it in the oven (hands out, putting cake in oven)  
For Baby and Me! (Big HUG!)

### **Humpty Dumpty**

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall! (bounce baby)  
All the King’s horses and all the King’s men. (drop baby between knees)  
Couldn’t put Humpty together again! (bounce baby)

### **Play Peek-a-Boo with Baby!**



## 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:
  - Tissue Paper
  - Glue
  - Heavy paper (cardstock)
- Journal Activity Sheet



## JOURNAL - *Rainbow Colors Peekaboo* DK Publishing

What did you like about the book *Rainbow Colors Peekaboo*? What do you think your child's favorite part was?

(1) Do you think your child has a favorite color? What do you think it is? Why?

(2) Do you have a favorite color? Why is it your favorite color?

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

### References

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## Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics

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

Baby Center

[www.babycenter.com](http://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](http://www.everythingpreschool.com)

Medline Plus

[www.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.nlm.nih.gov)

Scholastic

[www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com)

Songs for Teaching

[www.songsforteaching.com](http://www.songsforteaching.com)

The Perpetual Preschool

[www.perpetualpreschool.com](http://www.perpetualpreschool.com)

What To Expect

[www.whattoexpect.com](http://www.whattoexpect.com)