



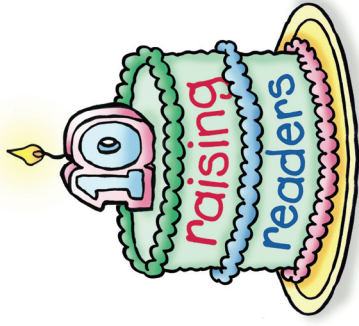
**The Maine Family Literacy Initiative and Raising Readers  
are pleased to present “Literacy Explorer Kits”.**

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*



## *Little Blue Truck* by Alice Schertle

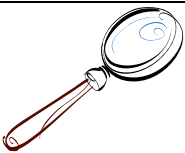
This kit includes the following:



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:

- ✓ Find a time to read every day. Bedtime is a great time to read - it will help your child relax before bed.
- ✓ Cuddle Up! This is the time to get cozy.
- ✓ Be Silly! Be Funny! Use Sound Effects!
- ✓ Read it - Again and Again and Again...Children love to read the same book more than once.
- ✓ Follow your child's lead; let him/her set the pace.
- ✓ Talk about what you read: What do you think will happen next?

### For Your Two Year Old:

- ✓ Keep books simple, find interactive books, like *Pat the Bunny*
- ✓ Ask questions while you read, like "What is this? It's a cat! Hello cat!"
- ✓ Watch for clues that it's time to move on to another activity: squirming, rubbing eyes, pushing the book away.
- ✓ Your child will probably want to pick out the book and turn the pages. They will like to hunt for their favorite picture!

### Developmental Milestones You May Notice:

- ✓ Builds tower of four blocks or more
- ✓ Begins to sort by shapes and colors
- ✓ Scribbles spontaneously
- ✓ Points to object or picture when named for him
- ✓ Uses simple phrases
- ✓ Demonstrates increasing independence



## Playgroup Map

### *Little Blue Truck* by Alice Schertle

<b>Read the Book:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Little Blue Truck</i> is a rhyming book. That makes it fun to read more than once during story time.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Some of the words are in different colors and <i>Little Blue Truck's</i> “beep” is always blue.</li><li>○ Show the children how the beep is blue and have them look for all of the “beeps”. After you read the book a few times, they will be able to help you with the “beeps”</li></ul></li><li>• Children love to make animal sounds and most two year olds know some sounds like: moo, ruff, baa, and oink.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Have the children “find” the animals and make the sound.</li><li>○ What else makes a sound in the book?</li></ul></li><li>• Older preschoolers will enjoy this book also, and you can explore these themes:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The dump truck is “BIG” and the blue truck is “little”.</li><li>○ Little Blue Truck and the animals teach the dump truck about friends.</li><li>○ Colors</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Literacy Extensions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dump truck learns what it means to be a friend. Sing this song at the start and end of playgroup:<p style="text-align: center;">Will you meet a friend of mine? Friend of mine? Friend of mine? Will you meet a friend of mine? This is my friend (child's name).</p></li><li>• Sort colors. Pick 2-4 colors from the book. Put a laundry basket or bucket out for each color. For example, for the color red, tape a piece of red construction paper onto the front of the basket. Have families go on a scavenger hunt for colors to put in the correct basket. They may find a red cup in the kitchen play area or a red block from the building center. They place those items in the “red” basket.</li><li>• Color clothesline – this is fun!<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Tie a piece of heavy string between to chairs to make a clothesline.</li><li>○ Trace a truck template onto red, blue, green, yellow, and orange construction paper. You will need 2 of each color.</li><li>○ Write A, B, C, D, E on each color set for older preschoolers.</li><li>○ Place one of each color on your line. Place the matches in a small “laundry basket”.</li><li>○ Children get to pick a truck from the basket and match it with what is on the line.</li><li>○ Use other templates for other seasons: ice cream cones in summer, mittens in the winter</li></ul></li></ul>

<b><i>Literacy Craft:</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let's get <i>Little Blue Truck</i> messy! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Give each family a blue cut out (or have parents cut out a truck template) of <i>Little Blue Truck</i></li> <li>○ Add a little white paint to brown paint, so it is not too dark when you paint the truck. Add a gritty ingredient like craft sand and mix. Children paint the truck "muddy".</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Little Blue Truck</i> is a great book to do a poster mural with children! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Give each family an animal to cut out and decorate. Tape a long piece of bulletin board paper horizontally across the bottom of a wall.</li> <li>○ Paint a road on the paper and apply double sided contact paper to certain "stops" along the road. (or use regular tape to keep the animals in a permanent spot).</li> <li>○ Children can choose where their animal will be on the road. Once the children become familiar with the story, this is a fun way to read the story as a group.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b><i>Science:</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different Shades of Colors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Give each family an ice cube tray. Fill the first three holes with red, yellow, and blue water.</li> <li>○ Give the child an eye dropper (or medicine dropper) and let them mix the colors in the empty spaces.</li> <li>○ This will create many shades of colors</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A Colored View <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cover a window with covered cellophane. Let the child look through the window and see how the color changes the view.</li> <li>○ If you want, cut out a different colored cellophane shape each day and add it to the window.</li> <li>○ Name the new shape, and let them check out the "colored" view.</li> <li>○ This idea also featured in <i>Scholastic Colors</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b><i>Parent Education:</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss with parents the importance of having conversations with their two year old. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pointing out colors is a great place for their conversation to start, such as "I am putting a blue shirt on you. What color are your shorts?"</li> <li>○ Or – "Let's make animal sounds. Can you be a duck? What does <i>Little Blue Truck</i> say?" (2 year olds love to imitate)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b><i>Snack:</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let's eat MUD! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Make chocolate pudding. Crush Oreo cookies. Layer pudding and Oreos in individual cups, a large sand pail OR purchase small trucks from a discount store for the dessert.</li> <li>○ Top with Gummi worms or other Gummi "bugs"</li> <li>○ For a healthy snack, have some vegetables available that were from the animals' farm that <i>Little Blue Truck</i> passes on his drive.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



## Parent and Child Together Time Ideas

### *Little Blue Truck* by Alice Schertle

#### **READ THE BOOK:**

- ❖ Ask to borrow *Little Blue Truck* and read it 3-4 times over a week. What does your child notice each time you read it to him/her?
- ❖ It's a rhyming book! That makes it fun to read more than once!
- ❖ Show your child how some words are different colors. What color is *Little Blue Truck's* "beep"?
- ❖ Find the animals with your child and say their animal sound.

#### **COLOR SCAVENGER HUNT:**

- ❖ Pick a color. Example: RED
- ❖ Hunt for red objects around the house. Gather them in one place
- ❖ Try naming the objects with your child
- ❖ Pick another color and repeat.

#### **MAKE A ROAD:**

- ❖ Indoors:
  - Lay strips of masking tape on carpet to form a road (blue painter's tape works best)
  - Be creative and make "intersections"
  - Your child can use cars and trucks and "drive" them along the road
- ❖ Outdoors:
  - Have your child help you create a road using sidewalk chalk. Again, make a simple "intersection".
  - Your child can put their favorite toy or animal in a stroller and "drive" them along the road.

### **A COLORED VIEW:**

- ❖ Cover a window with covered cellophane.
- ❖ Let your child look through the window and see how the colored cellophane changes the view.

### **SING A SONG:**

- ❖ You may have sung this song at playgroup:

Will you meet a friend of mine?  
Friend of mine? Friend of mine?  
Will you meet a friend of mine?  
This is my friend (child's name).

- ❖ This is a fun song to sing with your child. Gather your child's "friends" (stuffed animals, dolls, trucks) and place them in a circle. Sing them the Friend Song!





## This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your Two Year Old
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
  - Masking Tape or Blue Painter's Tape
  - 2-3 pieces of sidewalk chalk
  - Piece of colored cellophane
- Journal Activity Sheet



## JOURNAL - *Little Blue Truck* by Alice Schertle

What did you like about the book *Little Blue Truck*? What do you think your child's favorite part was?

Do you read other books to your child that have rhyming words or colored words? Do you think that helps your child learn colors?

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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Your Toddler’s Language-Development Explosion from whattoexpect.com retrieved August 5, 2011 from <http://www.whattoexpect.com/toddler-development/toddler-language.aspx>

## 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)