



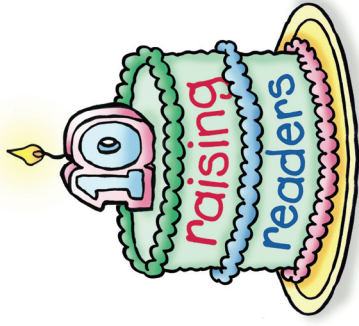
**The Maine Family Literacy Initiative and Raising Readers
are pleased to present “Literacy Explorer Kits”.**

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

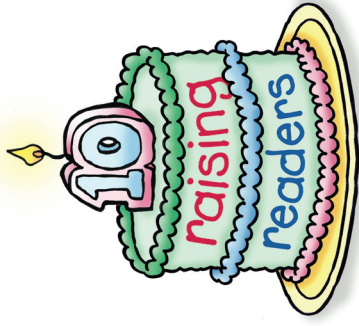


A Visitor for Bear
by Bonny Becker

5 years



*Books From Maine:
A Raising Readers
Collection*



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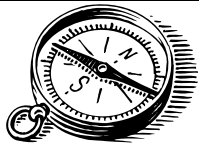


*Books From Maine:
 A Raising Readers
 Collection*



Little Scholastic Colors
Scholastic Inc

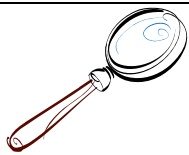
This kit includes the following:



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 are best for babies.
- ✓ Babies enjoy the singsong rhythm and playful words in nursery rhymes.

For your Baby:

- ✓ Babies listen to the rhythm of language (your voice), not the content. Read them anything: a children's book, a magazine, your novel.
- ✓ Read aloud for a few minutes at a time.
- ✓ Board books with different, bright colors will be interesting to them.
- ✓ Sing nursery rhymes, make funny animal sounds, or bounce your baby on your knee - anything that shows that reading is fun.
- ✓ Reading to your baby makes a connection between being close to you and your voice - two things your baby loves.

Developmental Milestones You May Notice - 2 Months:

- ✓ Your baby begins to like more complex patterns and designs, colors and shapes. Prop a book up for him/her to look at.
- ✓ Babies can tell the difference between different voices and sounds. They become a better listener - notice how they look towards noises in the room or someone approaching.
- ✓ They begin to coo, smile and use different cries to express their needs.
- ✓ They love one-sided conversations, so talk to your baby! Babies will watch your mouth move - fascinated by how it works.



Playgroup Map

Little Scholastic Colors Scholastic Inc

<p>Read the Book:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Little Scholastic Colors</i> allows babies to explore colors, shapes, textures, animal sounds, and simple words! • This is a great book for multi-age playgroups because it will interest babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. • It's also a wonderful book for shared reading. If possible, purchase or borrow multiple copies to share with families. Read the book together, turning the pages and saying the words at the same time. If you only have one copy, make sure the children who want to touch the different textures have the opportunity to do so.
<p>Literacy Extensions:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Sounds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make the sounds for the animals on the different pages. Toddlers will have fun adding motions, like a frog hopping or elephant raising its trunk. • Model "sharing" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Everyone will want to touch this book. Be sure to give everyone a turn and be transparent with children and families. ○ For example, "All of our friends get a turn touching the frog. It's Joe's turn now. We are going in a circle, so Emily gets a turn next." • Shapes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are many shapes in this book. You may want to show the last page first and look at the shapes: waves, square, rectangles, circles. ○ You can read the book by identifying the shapes that make up the animals. • Sing this song: <p style="text-align: center;">The Color I See</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Red, red is the color I see. If you are wearing RED, then show it to me. Stand up, turn around. Show me your red then sit back down.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yellow, Yellow is the color I see. If you are wearing YELLOW, then show it to me. Stand up, turn around. Show me your yellow then sit back down.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Go through as many colors as you wish.</p> • Model this song at playgroup if possible. It is listed in the take home PACT sheet. <p style="text-align: center;">Three Little Ducks</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Three little ducks went out to play (hold up 3 fingers) Over the hills and far away (wave hand over "hills") Mama* Duck went, "Quack, quack, quack, quack! (move hands like duck's bills) But only two little ducks came back. (hold up 2 fingers)</p>

REPEAT THIS VERSE TWICE, COUNTING DOWN TO NO DUCKS

Sad Mama Duck went out one day
Over the hills and far away (wave hand over “hills”)
Mama Duck went, “Quack, quack, quack, quack” (clap hands sternly, 3 times)
And three little ducks came waddling back! (hold up 3 fingers)
(* or Papa, Grandma)

Science:

- Set up a Texture Station!
 - Take a large piece of cardboard that you can place on the wall (toddler level) or lay it on the floor.
 - Create sections for different textures:
 - Packing bubbles, foil, fur, felt, sand paper.
 - Make sure items are safe for children to touch and secured to cardboard.
 - Have families visit the station. Model questions, “Which is the softest? Do you think this feels rough or smooth?”
 - This idea also featured in *Rainbow Colors Peekaboo*

Literacy Craft:

- Collages:
 - Collages are easy to do with toddlers using clear contact paper.
 - Lay a piece of clear contact paper on a table.
 - Provide a variety of materials for the toddler to place on the paper, such as, feathers, felt, construction paper, straw pieces, glitter, sparkles, whatever is available in your craft area!
 - Once they have placed all of the items, place another piece of clear contact paper over it. Seal it carefully.
 - Explain what a “collage” is to all families. A collage activity is listed in the PACT idea sheet.
- A Colored View
 - Cover a window with covered cellophane. Let the child look through the window and see how the color changes the view.
 - If you want, cut out a different colored cellophane shape each day and add it to the window.
 - Name the new shape, and let them check out the “colored” view
 - This idea also featured in *Little Blue Truck*

Parent Education:

- Encourage parents to experiment in how they read to their babies and toddlers. Reading “face to face” allows them to watch their children’s expressions and cues. Tell them to follow their child’s lead. Have them journal the experience, so they can reflect on it and share it with you.
- Discuss the Literacy Extension you did with families (or plan to do with sharing). For example, “We like to call the children our ‘friends’. That helps when we are settling disputes over a toy or space.”
- Have you set expectations for playgroups or parent education classes?
 - Brainstorm with families rules/expectations for playgroups and classes. For example, respect each other’s opinion, being

	<p>confidential, respecting parenting styles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post responses on a large piece of easel paper, have families sign their name, and post it where everyone can see it. ○ It makes it easy to start groups off by referencing the expectations that the families set together.
<i>Snack:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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

Little Scholastic Colors Scholastic Inc

READ THE BOOK:

- ❖ Read this book many times with your child.
- ❖ Point to the pictures. You can say the name of the color, animal, or shape.
- ❖ Feel the textures together. Name the texture. For example, feel the red bird, "Oh, this little red bird feels soft. What else feels soft I wonder?"
- ❖ Make the sounds the animal makes. Be silly with your sounds.
- ❖ For a baby, touch his/her fingers gently to the soft textures. Hold the pictures for him/her to look at. Prop the book open to a favorite picture.

COLOR HUNT:

- ❖ Pick a color each day to explore with your child. Do this over one week and then write about it in your journal.
- ❖ For example, RED day
 - What can we wear that is red?
 - What can we find in our house that is red?
 - What do we see outside as we drive in our car or go in our stroller that is red?
 - What do we eat that is red?
 - Can we make a collage of red items?
- ❖ Be creative, make up a song or rhyme. For example,

R . . E . . D, red, R . . E . . D, red.
I can spell red. I can spell red.
Fire trucks are red. Stop signs are red too.
R . . E . . D, red, R . . E . . D, red.

SING A SONG:

- ❖ There is a Red Bird in the book. Change the nursery rhyme "Two Little Blackbirds" to "Two Little Redbirds" and sing to your baby or toddler.

Two little redbirds sitting on a hill
(hold up index fingers)

One named Jack and the other named Jill
(bend one finger for each name)

Fly away Jack!
(put one finger behind back)

Fly away Jill!
(put other finger behind back)

Come back Jack!
(bring first finger to front)

Come back Jill!
(bring second finger to front)

- ❖ Share this finger play with your baby or toddler:

Three Little Ducks

Three little ducks went out to play (hold up 3 fingers)
Over the hills and far away (wave hand over "hills")
Mama* Duck went, "Quack, quack, quack, quack!" (move hands like duck's bills)
But only two little ducks came back. (hold up 2 fingers)

REPEAT THIS VERSE TWICE, COUNTING DOWN TO NO DUCKS

Sad Mama Duck went out one day
Over the hills and far away (wave hand over "hills")
Mama Duck went, "Quack, quack, quack, quack" (clap hands sternly, 3 times)
And three little ducks came waddling back! (hold up 3 fingers)
(* or Papa, Grandma)



This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your Baby and Toddler
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Journal Activity Sheet



JOURNAL - *Little Scholastic Colors* Scholastic Inc

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

Try reading the book "face to face" with your child. What do you notice when you read to your baby this way?

Did you explore colors with your child, picking a different color each day? Share the experience...

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