



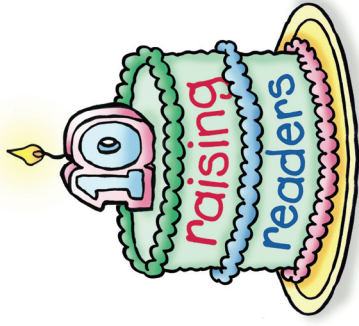
**The Maine Family Literacy Initiative and Raising Readers
are pleased to present “Literacy Explorer Kits”.**

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



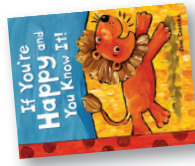
Peek-a-Boo WHO?
 by Simms Taback

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

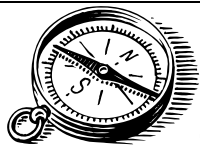


*Books From Maine:
 A Raising Readers
 Collection*



Two at the Zoo by Danna Smith

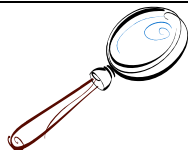
This kit includes the following:



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:

- ✓ Read to your toddler every day. Make it part of your routine and have a set time to read: before bed or naptime, after a bath.
- ✓ Cuddle while you read - make your toddler feel safe and loved.
- ✓ Reading will help build your child's vocabulary, stimulate his/her imagination, and improve his/her communication skills.
- ✓ Read with expression - use different voices and make facial expressions.
- ✓ Store books in your diaper bag - they are great to have while stuck in traffic or waiting for an appointment.

For your 18 Month Old:

- ✓ Don't be surprised if your toddler walks off while you are reading or wants to stand or sit next to you. (Since learning to walk, who wants to sit still?)
- ✓ Story time may end abruptly or last for only a few minutes. That's okay - grab a few minutes to read when your toddler shows interest and keep your set reading time.
- ✓ Interactive books work best, touch and feel, turning dials, stories that move quickly.
- ✓ Let them read at their own pace, looking at pictures and asking questions for as long as they want to.
- ✓ Encourage play that allows them to use their imagination and creativity. Start acting out stories!
- ✓ Play simple games like puzzles and shape sorting.

Developmental Milestones You May Notice:

- ✓ Can build a tower of two to four blocks. Imitates scribbling.
- ✓ Can use a spoon and cup to help feed themselves.
- ✓ Understands and is able to point to common objects.
- ✓ Begins to feel a sense of ownership - identifying people and objects and saying "my".
- ✓ Should have a small vocabulary of words and you may see an explosion of language at 18 months.
- ✓ Is able to take off some clothing items, like hat, mittens, socks.



Playgroup Map

Two at the Zoo by Danna Smith

<p>Read the Book:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toddlers will love <i>Two at the Zoo</i> which tells the story of a little boy visiting the zoo with Grandpa. They visit animals, observe animals, count the animals, and listen to the animal sounds. • This is a rhyming book. Read the book emphasizing the rhyming words. • Stop at each page to count the animals. Point to the animal while you count. Trace the shape of the number with your finger. • Act out the animal movements. For example, can they “rest and nest” like the Eagles.
<p>Literacy Extensions:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toddlers love to stack blocks – incorporate counting. Make simple towers up to five or ten and count the blocks. Invite different children to knock over the tower. • Count the letters in each child’s name. Sit in a circle and explain that you are going to count letters. For example, “My name is Pam, P-A-M. Let’s count the letters in my name 1, 2, 3.” • Penguin Waddle Race (for preschoolers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have children place a medium size kickball between their knees and run “waddle” to a certain point!
<p>Science:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Observatory (also listed in PACT idea sheet) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Set up an observatory by a large window in the playroom or classroom. Have simple bird and animal books by the window with a child’s set of binoculars. (Check discount stores for binoculars. Sometimes your local sporting good store or hardware store will donate them to childcare centers) ○ Have children observe animal life through the window at different times of the day. ○ You can set up a simple tally sheet (incorporate math) by the window. Cut out pictures of squirrels, robins, blue birds, etc. and paste onto a large piece of paper. Mount the paper on the wall. If a child sees one of these animals, they make a tally mark next to the picture. At the end of each day, count how many animals were observed. Do a weekly tally.
<p>Math:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counting Stations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Set up simple counting stations throughout the room. Label pails or buckets with numbers, for example, 3, 6, 8, 9. If you have preschoolers at the playgroup, you can create number sentences on the pails like $3 + 4 = \underline{\quad}$ ○ Have different counters at the station: blocks, beans, erasers. ○ Incorporate the story by creating RED tickets for the stations. Give each child a red ticket. Every time they visit a station, they punch a hole in their ticket.

Literacy Craft:

- Safari Hats
 - Place a large paper plate face down. Place a paper bowl upside down on the plate.
 - Tape or glue the bowl to the plate. Decorate the “hat” with crayons/markers. Punch a hole on either side of the plate and run string that looks like rope through it.
 - Parent and child should each make a hat.
 - If you want, you can purchase safari material and cover the plate and bowl in the fabric before assembling.
- Train Tracks
 - At the end of the story, they take the train home.
 - Provide a long strip of paper and different plastic vehicles: trains, cars, tractors.
 - Have children dip their vehicles in paint and “drive” them on the paper making tracks.
- Footprint Penguins
 - Dip the child’s foot in black paint or use a brush to paint the black paint on the bottom of the foot.
 - Carefully, place the child’s foot on a piece of paper, making a footprint.
 - Add eyes, an orange beak, and paint a white circle on the middle of the print. You have a penguin!

Parent Education:

- Just like it is important to emphasize literacy with parents, you should also encourage them to explore numeracy! Talk about all of the different ways you can count with children. Use examples from playgroup or share some of the activities that you will do in playgroup.
- During class, have parents create “Number Cubes” to take to their homes. (Idea from, *The Toddler Busy Book* by Trish Kuffner, 1999)
 - Choose two milk cartons the same size. Measure the base of one carton and mark a cutting line that same distance up the side of the carton. Cut along the line. Cut the other carton in the same way. You should now have two open-ended cubes that you will push together (see next step) to make one cube for your “die.”
 - Push one cube open-end-down into the other cube. Tape around the cut edges. Wrap the entire cube in a sheet of paper.
 - On each face of the cube use a permanent marker to make a different number of dots (or use dot stickers) from one to six. Cover the cube in clear contact paper.
 - Parents will give their child six objects to count with. Show them how to have their child toss the cube into the air and count out the same number of objects as dots on top of the cube.

Snack:

- Wearing your Safari Hats, eat what the little boy and Grandpa ate – Hot Dogs!
 - Have a hot dog party and bring other items that you might want to eat at the zoo.
 - Of course, have apple slices available so you can crunch and munch

like Black Bear.

- 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

Two at the Zoo by Danna Smith

READ THE BOOK:

- ❖ *Two at the Zoo* is a rhyming book. Read it while rhyming the words in a sing song method.
- ❖ Stop at each page to count the animals and trace the number on the page. If your child is ready, have them point to the animals as you count together.
- ❖ Ask questions like, "Do you see the penguins sliding?" "What noise does the black bear make when he is eating his apple?" "What color are the baby gators?"
- ❖ See if your child will read the book to YOU. Do they skip pages? Do they have a favorite page?

ANIMAL MASKS:

- ❖ Did your child have a favorite animal in this book? Create an animal mask!
- ❖ Take a white paper plate and cut out holes for mouth and eyes.
- ❖ Decorate the plate to look like the animal. For example, for a lion glue on yarn hair, color in a nose and whiskers.
- ❖ Hole punch or poke a small hole on either side of the plate. Attach yarn to fit comfortably around your child's head.
- ❖ Say the animal sound while wearing the new mask!
- ❖ Make several masks and play zoo as with the whole family!

NUMBER FUN:

- ❖ There are many different ways you can practice counting with your child. For example:
 - Count while putting shoes on 1,2
 - Count spoonfuls of a simple snack, like applesauce.
 - Count how many blocks you can stack before they fall down.
 - Count the letters in a favorite word or your child's name.
 - Count how many steps on stairs in your home or a building.
 - Count how many birds land in your yard.

NATURE OBSERVATORY:

- ❖ Set up an observatory by a large window in your home.
- ❖ Have simple bird and animal books by the window with a child's set of binoculars.
- ❖ Check discount stores for children's binoculars
- ❖ Have children observe animal life through the window at different times of the day.
- ❖ Ask them, "What did you see outside? How many birds were there? What do you think the bird was doing?"

SING A SONG:

Two Little Blackbirds

Two little blackbirds 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)



This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your 18 Month Old
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
 - White paper plate
 - Different colored construction paper
 - Crayons/markers, glue
 - Yarn/string
 - Craft materials: yarn, felt
 - Child's Binoculars (optional)
- Journal Activity Sheet



JOURNAL - *Two at the Zoo* by Danna Smith

What did you like about the book *Two at the Zoo*? What do you think your child's favorite part was?

Counting ideas are listed on the PACT idea sheet. What other ways do you count 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