



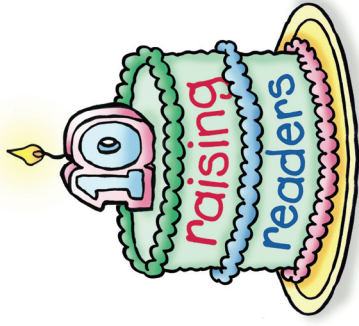
**The Maine Family Literacy Initiative and Raising Readers
are pleased to present “Literacy Explorer Kits”.**

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*



***Camping Day!* by Patricia Lakin**

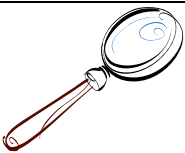
This kit includes the following:



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 Five Year Old:

- ✓ Help your child build vocabulary Have your child use his/her imagination to make up and tell you stories. Ask questions to help him/her expand the stories.
- ✓ Pause when you are reading to talk about the book.
- ✓ Focus on familiar patterns in words, like, hat, pat, cat
- ✓ Praise and support your child's response, "That's right. The puppy looks sad."

Developmental Milestones You May Notice:

- ✓ Hops, somersaults, swings, may be able to skip
- ✓ Can count ten or more objects and correctly names four colors. Prints some letters
- ✓ Recalls parts of a story, tells longer stories
- ✓ Copies triangle and other geometric patterns
- ✓ Likes to sing, dance, and act
- ✓ Sometimes demanding, sometimes eagerly cooperative



Playgroup Map

Camping Day! by Patricia Lakin

<p><i>Read the Book:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Camping Day!</i> is an exciting adventure book! The characters are BUSY! They all work together to go camping. Think about their actions: Reading, Packing, Driving, Hiking, Camping, Cooking, Sleeping, and more Driving! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This makes it a fun book to act out and reenact. ○ Have each family pick an action to imitate. Have the other families guess what they are doing. • It is a rhyming book – and a rhyming book with names – “Sam, Pam” and “Will, Jill” Emphasize the rhyming words while you read. • It is a silly book – children will giggle when Jill “toots” and the characters “freeze” for the bees. • The characters show a lot of different emotions, especially when they say “SCARY!” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ask the children, “When do you think they are happy, excited, scared? How did you know? What were they doing in the picture?”
<p><i>Literacy Extensions:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the book once, and then play a rhyming game with names or easy rhyming objects, like ball, cat, etc. Start with a word (cat), have each family say a word that rhymes with it. When the families run out of words that rhyme with cat, choose a new word. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This game can be played with everyone: slapping their legs twice and then clapping their hands twice in a rhythm. • There is a lot of movement in this book, and the characters “freeze” for the bees! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Play freeze dance. Play a favorite playgroup song or a fun, camping song. Pause the music and everyone freezes. Be silly – freeze in different poses! • Let’s Go Camping! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Either before the families arrive or with the families (more challenging depending on size of group) set up a “tent” or “campsite”. You can do this with a tent or (more fun) be creative with supplies/furniture that is already in the room. ○ Gather round the campsite for story time and the other extension activities, like singing the song, “A Camping We Will Go” by Jean Warren (preschooexpress.com) <p style="text-align: center;">A camping we will go A camping we will go Hi Ho to the forest we'll go A camping we will go</p> <p>(Additional Verses: We'll pitch the tent right here... We'll sleep in a sleeping bag... We'll hike in a field of grass... We'll roast hotdogs by the fire...)</p>

<i>Literacy Craft:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adventure Crafts! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Children can create their own backpacks or “adventure” bags with different materials. You can purchase inexpensive bags to decorate with fabric markers and material. ○ Items can be purchased at a discount store: magnifying glasses, bug net, water bottle, rope, hat etc. ○ Walking sticks – collect walking sticks or discover them on an adventure walk. ○ If you want to decorate the sticks, paint them with outdoor craft paint.
<i>Science:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shadow Puppets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shine a flashlight onto a wall or hanging sheet. ○ Show the children how to form a shadow puppet. First show your hand close up, so they can see the movement. Gently, shape their hand and have them practice opening and closing to the shape. This can take time, share with your parents that they will need to be patient while their child experiments with their hand movements. ○ Once they can hold the shape, flash the light towards their hand. ○ Rabbit Shadow Puppet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a loose fist with your fingers. • Raise your index finger and middle finger in a peace sign to make bunny ears • Make a mouth for the rabbit with your folded fingers ○ Bird Shadow Puppet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold your hands in front of your body, palms up. • Cross one wrist over the other and hook your thumbs together. • Point your thumbs up. • Make the bird fly by keeping your fingers together and flapping your “wings”. • Solar Oven Pizza Box (see Snack section to make S’mores) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ask your local Pizza House for a large pizza box (or small ones for each family). ○ Cut a square hole in the top cover of the pizza box leaving 2 inches around the square. Cover this hole with clear plastic wrap. ○ Line the inside of the box with aluminum foil. ○ Place your S’mores in the box and close the lid. Place in a warm area with full sun or outside on a summer day. ○ Remove carefully, the aluminum foil will be hot. ○ If families take their ovens home be sure to discuss items to cook (for food safety) and to watch children around foil (heat).
<i>Parent Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhyming is an important part of children’s language development. It is fun and introduces children to new words and encourages them to begin to look for patterns with words. Talk with your parents about patterns in words. Just like they looked for letters in words when their children were

	<p>younger, have them now look for common words with their children in the story. These can be words like – the, and, is – and words that are common in the story. For <i>Camping Day!</i> they can look for the character’s names and other words like “cried”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The characters are very animated in this story and some of the words get BIG. You may want to take a picture walk with the families before reading the story to them. Have the children make guesses about what is happening in the story.
<i>Snack:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Dinner! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Serve beans and cut up hotdogs. ○ Smores! (Microwave OR Solar Oven – see Science section) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Place a small piece of chocolate onto half of a graham cracker. Place half of a large marshmallow on the other half of the graham cracker. ▪ Microwave for 10 seconds, place together and EAT! Check the heat temperature of the S’more before serving.



Parent and Child Together Time Ideas

Camping Day! by Patricia Lakin

READ THE BOOK:

- ❖ Ask to borrow *Camping Day!* Your child will want to read it more than once.
- ❖ After you read it a few times, your child will most likely want to read it to you. They may recognize a few words, and most likely they will read it to you by memory.
- ❖ It's fun to change the story around and to make it silly! Look at a picture on one page and try to imagine what else could be happening.
- ❖ What do you notice about the book? It's a rhyming book! Can you and your child think of other names or words that rhyme with "Sam, Pam" and "Will, Jill"?

NATURE WALK:

- ❖ Take a lunch size brown paper bag and decorate it using crayons.
- ❖ Go outside for a nature walk with your child. Point out:
 - The color of leaves and trees, any bugs you see!
 - Check out the sky - what do the clouds look like?
 - What else do you notice?
- ❖ Collect nature items as you walk (twigs, leaves, acorns, etc.) Place them in your nature bag.
- ❖ You can make a nest from your nature collection. Form clay or play dough into a ball. Stick your leaves and twigs into the clay and allow to dry.

FREEZE DANCE:

- ❖ Put on some music and DANCE!
- ❖ Pause the music and freeze in silly movements.
- ❖ Have the whole family join in!

SHADOW PUPPETS:

- ❖ Shine a flashlight onto a wall or hanging sheet
- ❖ Show your child how to form a shadow puppet. First show your hand close up, so they can see the movement. Gently, shape their hand and have them practice opening and closing to the shape. This can take time, be patient while your child experiments with his/her hand movements.
- ❖ Once they can hold the shape, flash the light towards their hand.
- ❖ Rabbit Shadow Puppet
 - Make a loose fist with your fingers.
 - Raise your index finger and middle finger in a peace sign to make bunny ears
 - Make a mouth for the rabbit with your folded fingers
- ❖ Bird Shadow Puppet
 - Hold your hands in front of your body, palms up.
 - Cross one wrist over the other and hook your thumbs together.
 - Point your thumbs up.
 - Make the bird fly by keeping your fingers together and flapping your "wings".

SING A SONG:

- ❖ You may have sung this song at playgroup, "A Camping We Will Go":

A camping we will go
A camping we will go
Hi Ho to the forest we'll go
A camping we will go

(Additional Verses: We'll pitch the tent right here... We'll sleep in a sleeping bag... We'll hike in a field of grass... We'll roast hotdogs by the fire...)

-Jean Warren, www.preschoolexpress.com



This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your Five Year Old
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
 - Lunch Size Brown Paper Bag
 - Clay or Play Dough
 - Flashlight
- Journal Activity Sheet



JOURNAL - *Camping Day!* by Patricia Lakin

What did you like about the book *Camping Day!* What do you think your child's favorite part was?

Which character do you think your child liked best? Sam, Pam, Will, or Jill? Ask your child and find out why...

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