



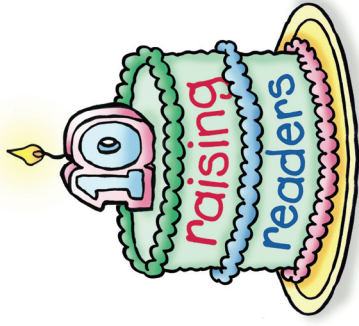
The Maine Family Literacy Initiative and Raising Readers are pleased to present “Literacy Explorer Kits”.

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

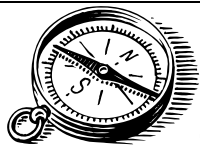


*Books From Maine:
A Raising Readers
Collection*



***Baby Faces* by Margaret Miller**

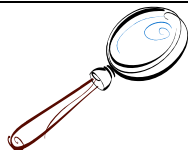
This kit includes the following:



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, so sing while you read!

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 - 4 Months:

- ✓ Research shows that your baby can now understand all of the basic sounds that make up his/her native language.
- ✓ Encourage your baby to communicate with you by imitating the expressions and sounds he/she makes.
- ✓ React when your baby makes a noise or tries to say something - this will tell your baby that language is important.
- ✓ Give meaning to what your baby says. For example, “Yes, that is a ball!” Soon, “ba” will become “ball.”
- ✓ Your baby is developing a sense of humor and may laugh at “Peek a Boo” and other happy surprises.



Playgroup Map

Baby Faces by Margaret Miller

<p><i>Read the Book:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babies love looking at other babies, so <i>Baby Faces</i> is a perfect book to engage babies and toddlers in reading! • When reading the book, exaggerate the words with facial expressions. Give meaning to “yucky” by scrunching up your face and smiling while you shout out “yippee”. Encourage parents to help you make the faces. • Have parents hold baby or child on lap facing them. Make silly expressions.
<p><i>Literacy Extensions:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making Faces! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make different happy faces to baby – be silly. ○ Babies will love to look in a mirror (see parent education section) • Moods with Music (for toddlers and preschoolers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Give the families a large sheet of white paper and art supplies: crayons/markers or paint. ○ Play classical music while they create their “masterpiece”. Next change the music to something upbeat and fast. ○ Look at the differences. This makes for a great conversation to have with preschoolers about feelings!
<p><i>Science:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensory Table for Older Children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Set up a station with baby – lotion, powder, shampoo, and oil ○ Have children feel the different items. You may want to let them care for their “babies” by applying some of the items.
<p><i>Literacy Craft:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandwich Bag Book: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cut out bright colored pictures from magazines (baby faces or objects baby would like, dog, ball) ○ Glue them to both sides of colored construction paper. ○ Label them, for example, “ball” “cat” “messy baby” ○ Place them in zip sandwich bag and close. ○ Place 4-5 bags together and hole punch. Secure with string or ribbon. ○ Cover edge with duct tape to cover string. ○ Babies will mouth books, so supervise baby with book and replace when needed. • Small babies who are eating solids can “paint” with applesauce. Put a scoop of applesauce on a highchair tray and allow baby to “paint”. • A Bunch of Feelings...(for preschoolers or toddlers with parents helping) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Using either purple or green circles, have the children draw different faces showing feelings: happy, sad, angry, surprised, etc. ○ Next, glue the circles together to form a bunch of grapes or a “bunch of feelings”.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Messy” baby ... (for preschoolers or toddlers with parents helping) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Most children love to get messy or comment on other messy children! ○ Cut out pictures from magazines or use extra pictures taken from playgroups. Glue pictures to construction paper. ○ Be creative and let the children make “messy” children. Light brown paint for chocolate or mud. Glued on yarn for spaghetti.
Parent Education:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being silly does not come easy to all parents. <i>Baby Faces</i> is a great book to teach parents how to be silly and transparent with their baby. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Give each parent a mirror. Have them make different faces, silly, happy, sad, angry, surprised. ○ It’s good for parents to look at their expressions as they experience different emotions – this is what their baby sees. Share this with them. • Discuss the Developmental Milestones for this age, especially: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage parents to give meaning to what baby is saying. For example, “Yes, that is a ball!” Soon, “ba” will become “ball.” Parents should be providing “language rich experiences”. Discuss with them how to talk to their baby – when feeding or changing them, out in the stroller, any opportunity they have for conversation. ○ Baby’s sense of humor. Four months old is a great time to start Peek-a-boo. This gentle game gives a happy surprise (parent’s face) and can be incorporated into a game with lift the flap books. • Six lap songs are provided in the PACT take home sheet. Sing these lap songs with families, so they become familiar with holding baby on lap and signing these songs. Model by holding a baby doll or stuffed animal! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Babies love high pitched noises and singing at four months. ○ Lap songs are great to teach because children of all ages love to sing on their parent’s lap. As they get older, they will put a favorite toy or stuffed animal on their lap and sing the songs. <p>Discuss with parents opportunities to sing the songs: waiting for an appointment or in the grocery line, tub time, or driving in the car.</p>
Snack:	<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. • If you have older children, you may want to set up a “baby food tasting” station. This can become funny with older children tasting baby food that they used to eat. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bring math to snack time by “bar graphing” children’s favorites.



Parent and Child Together Time Ideas

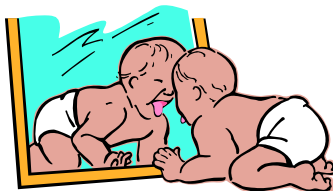
Baby Faces by Margaret Miller

READ THE BOOK:

- ❖ Your child will love *Baby Faces* because babies are fascinated by babies!
- ❖ Look at the pictures slowly, follow baby's lead.
- ❖ Point to the expressions and words. Exaggerate while you read: scrunch up your face for "yucky", put a big smile on for "yippee"!
- ❖ For the older child, ask questions, like "What do you think made the baby go "yucky" or "yum-yum"?"

BABY FACES:

- ❖ Make silly, funny expressions with your baby. You can add sound effects.
- ❖ Babies love mirrors, so look for a safe baby mirror for them to look into. Many stores have baby mirrors that you can prop on the floor for the baby during "tummy" time.
- ❖ Lie on your belly next to baby and share the mirror or lay on your belly facing baby and copy baby's expressions.



PEEK-A-BOO:

- ❖ Peek-a-boo is a game with a happy surprise - your face!
- ❖ Play this game over and over again with baby. As baby gets older, you can play the game with different objects like a book, ball, or favorite stuffed animal.

LAP SONGS:

- ❖ Babies will enjoy these Lap Songs. Place your baby on your lap facing you.

Round and Round the Garden

Round and round the garden (circle baby's hand with finger)

Like the teddy bear -

One step, two step, (walk fingers up baby's arm)

And a tickle under there! (tickle under baby's chin)

(you can repeat on each hand, and then do it on your baby's tummy!)

I Take My Little Hands

I take my little hands and go clap, clap, clap (actions match your words)

I take my little hands and go clap, clap, clap

I take my little hands and go clap, clap, clap

Clap, Clap all day long.

(Repeat with other body parts...)

I take my little feet and go tap, tap, tap

I take my little knees and go bend, bend, bend.

I take my little head and go nod, nod, nod.

Touch Game

Touch your nose, touch your chin, (touch baby on each body part as named)

That's the way this game begins.

Touch your eyes, touch your knees,

Now pretend you feel a breeze. (blow gently on baby's face)

Touch your hair, touch one ear,

Touch your two red lips right here.

Touch your elbows where they bend

That's the way this touch game ends.

Where is Thumbkin?

Where is Thumbkin, where is Thumbkin? (hold hands behind back)
Here I am, here I am. (bring thumbs out, one at a time)

How are you today, sir?
Very well, I thank you. (wiggle thumbs as they talk)
Run away, Run away. (put hands behind back, one at a time)

(Repeat with Pointer, Tall One, Ringo and Pinkie)

Open Them, Shut Them

Open them, shut them, open them, shut them, Give a little clap!
Open them, shut them, open them, shut them, Lay them in your lap.

Creep them, creep them, slowly creep them, Right up to your chin!
Cover up your little eyes -
And take a little peek! Peek a Boo!

Creep them, creep them, slowly creep them, Right up to your nose.
Creep them, creep them, Right down to your toes!
("them" are your hands - suit actions to words on baby's body throughout the song)

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!)



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 - *Baby Faces* by Margaret Miller

What did you like about the book *Baby Faces*? What do you think your child's favorite part was?

What is your favorite expression that your baby makes? What do you think this expression means?

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