



Celebrating 10 years and 1.3 Million Books Site Update

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Coming Soon: Walk with Me!

The importance of caregivers exposing infants to language is critical when we understand the power of that language. Caregivers shape the very sounds that babies will hold onto and eventually use to express themselves. Reading books like *Walk with Me* is an important way to use language to engage the children in our care. Narrating actions throughout the day, talking with children about what is happening, and labeling objects in the environment are key ingredients in supporting literacy development. Reading fun books that are predictable, that rhyme, and that add an element of fun like asking the reader questions, is another important way to support early literacy. At twelve months, babies will enjoy the repeated question and answer, rhyming and lift-the-flap elements of *Walk with Me!* The new title will start shipping in August.



Adapted from 2010 Maine Early Literacy Calendar

(http://raisingreaders.org/about_us/2010_maine_early_literacy_calendar)

A Love of Books

The most important language stimulation we can provide to our infants and toddlers is reading to them, says Pamela High, M.D., FAAP. "I think that the most important thing parents do by reading with their infants, toddlers, and preschoolers is to teach them to love books and stories so much that they will be very motivated to learn to read, even when it is a difficult task for them."

(www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/preschool/Pages/Using-Their-Words.aspx)

Raising Readers Books at Libraries & Childcare

Books in the home provide opportunities for parents and children to enjoy books together but the story does not end there. Those books are also a resource that can be used in childcare, family literacy, libraries, and other settings. Collaborations with select public libraries and the state's network of childcare Resource Development Centers provide access to Raising Readers books so they can be integrated into services and programming provided by a variety of organizations.

The 2009 and 2010 Collections are now available at the eight Resource Development Centers and at the libraries in Belfast, Camden, Cherryfield, Dover-Foxcroft, Paris, Skowhegan, Strong and Waldoboro. Subsequent collections will be added annually.



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