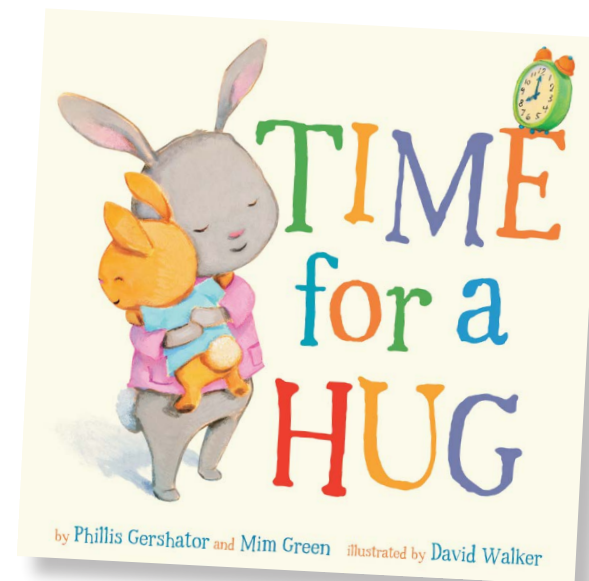


# Setting the Scene for Literacy

## Creating a Literacy-Rich Environment in Your Home

We work hard to create loving environments for our little ones, choosing just the right clothes, bedding and toys for them, making sure we snuggle and love them, and providing enough food and care to keep them healthy and happy. Part of this environment that is sometimes overlooked is the need to expose our children to the world of text. As adults, we're surrounded by text all day, every day. Just pause for a moment and think of all the literacy acts you've engaged with today (remember literacy includes reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing images and text, and visually representing thoughts through images). You may have read your mail, listened to the news on the radio, read the box of cereal while you ate, jotted a note to a co-worker, or sent an email. Certainly you're reading this now! We want our children to be as comfortable navigating the world of text as we are. Help your child connect to that world by trying some of the following ideas:

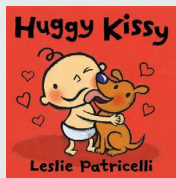
- **Point out text** when you're reading it. "That sign says, 'Library'. We're here!"
- **If your child asks you a question**, say, "Hmmm...I'm not sure. Let's look it up." And then do it! That models the use of books or online text for finding answers and lets your child know she will be able to do that herself. How empowering is that?
- **Look around your home.** How much text do you see? Could you place a basket of books out for your child's easy access? Do you yourself read in front of your child? What writing does your child get to see? Think about ways to make literacy visible to your child so he can take text for granted, too!
- **Make reading a book** the "default" activity. If your child doesn't know what to do, he or she can always look at books. Keep a couple in your bag or car for when you're out and about and need to fill wait time.



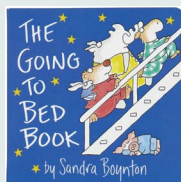
*Raising Readers' 18-month selection for 2014*

**raising  
readers**

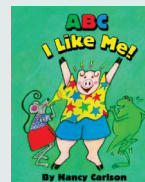
*Your child might also enjoy...*



**Huggy Kissy**  
by Leslie Patricelli



**The Going to Bed Book**  
by Sandra Boynton



**ABC I Like Me!**  
by Nancy Carlson



**Green**  
by Laura Seeger