The Maine Family Literacy Initiative and Raising Readers are pleased to present the 2011 “Literacy Explorer Kits”

Each Literacy Explorer Kit provides theme activities for the 2011 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 2011

Celebrating 11 years and over 1.5 million books given to children in Maine.
For more information call 1-800-397-3263 or visit www.raisingreaders.org

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newborn</th>
<th>9 months</th>
<th>2 years</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Baby Bear’s Books</em>&lt;br&gt;Melissa Sweet</td>
<td><em>Peek-a-Boo What?</em>&lt;br&gt;Begin Smart</td>
<td><em>Pouch!</em>&lt;br&gt;David Ezra Stein</td>
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<td><em>What Does Baby See?</em>&lt;br&gt;Begin Smart</td>
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<td><em>Vroom Vroom Maisy</em>&lt;br&gt;Lucy Cousins</td>
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<th>2 months</th>
<th>12 months</th>
<th>3 years</th>
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<td><em>Look at That!</em>&lt;br&gt;Guido Van Genechten</td>
<td><em>Look at You!</em>&lt;br&gt;Kathy Henderson</td>
<td><em>The Seals on the Bus</em>&lt;br&gt;Lenny Hort</td>
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<th>4 months</th>
<th>15 months</th>
<th>4 years</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>I Love Colors</em>&lt;br&gt;Margaret Miller</td>
<td><em>Knees and Toes</em>&lt;br&gt;Rookie Toddler</td>
<td><em>Kiss the Cow!</em>&lt;br&gt;Phyllis Root</td>
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<th>6 months</th>
<th>18 months</th>
<th>5 years</th>
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<td><em>All About Me</em>&lt;br&gt;DK Publishing</td>
<td><em>Meeow and the Little Chairs</em>&lt;br&gt;Sebastien Braun</td>
<td><em>Raising Readers: A Treasury of Tales from Maine</em></td>
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Create a bridge between the literacy materials in your program and the books children have in their homes.
Purchase a copy of each of the RR books for your program. Experiencing the same book in the home and in your family literacy program multiplies its impact. Teach parents why they should read to their children daily and model how to engage their children with books. Provide parents with supplemental activities that they can do at home with each of the books. You may also find some of these books at your local library.

Use information from the Early Literacy Calendar in your parenting classes.
Many of the children in your program will have these books at home and this information will help parents understand how to enjoy the books with their kids.

Incorporate the books and related activities into your Interactive Literacy Activities.
Many RR books include activities linked to the book that you can use in the program. These are located in the back of the book. Developed with the staff at Maine Roads to Quality, the activities support Maine’s Infant Toddler and Preschool Learning Guidelines. Activities for additional books used in the program are available on the website.

Use the RR Topics Brochure for recommendations on books that deal with common childhood issues.
Available on the website, the Topics Brochure provides lists of children’s books on sibling rivalry, loss/grief, toilet training, etc. These books might be helpful as a reference for parents in your program or as an introduction on how parents can use literacy materials to address common childhood issues.

Use the RR website for read aloud tips, parent handouts, and as a resource for early literacy skills.
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”)

A Collaboration of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers
Pamela Cote 2012
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 helps build vocabulary and stimulates a child’s imagination. It also helps improve his/her communication skills.
✓ Infants should be exposed to language rich environments. Language skills are related to how many words a baby hears each day.
✓ Babies love to “mouth” books, so heavy duty board books are best for babies.
✓ Babies love to hear singing, so look for books with rhythm and nursery rhymes.

For your Six Month Old:
✓ Read aloud for a few minutes at a time. It’s okay to stop when your baby wants to stop reading.
✓ Board books with different, bright colors will be interesting to them. Choose books with different designs and patterns.
✓ Sing to your baby! They love to hear your voice rhyming a nursery rhyme or lullaby.
✓ Babies start to understand that pictures are objects. They will start to have favorite pictures, pages, and, as they approach 12 months, favorite books!
✓ Now it is time to start a routine for reading - try to find a set time to read every day, like before bed, nap, or bath. (you can still read whenever you want to!)

Developmental Milestones You May Notice:
✓ Begins to move items from hand to hand and uses a “raking” grasp.
✓ Enjoys looking at their image in a mirror and responds to different expressions.
✓ Explores with hands and mouth.
✓ Tries to get objects that are out of their reach.
✓ Practices until they understand how things work, so it’s important to do the same thing over and over and over again!
### Read the Book:

- *All About Me!* is a lift the flap book that uses rhyming words to talk about different parts of baby! Sweet baby pictures show baby’s eyes, nose, hands, and more!
- Read the book slowly and have older children guess what is under the flap the first time you read it together. Encourage children to take turns lifting the flap.
- Have children imitate the movements in the book: waving bye-bye, opening and closing eyes, etc.
- Encourage parents of babies to read the book slowly, taking time to count their baby’s toes just like in the book.

### Literacy Extensions:

- Play a game of “Where is it?” Parents should point to a body part and name it for themselves and then baby. For example, “Where is my nose?” (parent points to their own nose). “Where is your nose?” (gently touches baby’s nose).
- Modify this game as baby grows to “What is it?” For example, “What is this?” (point to nose). Toddler names it as “nose”.
- Play “This Little Piggy…” with baby toes! The words to this lap game are listed on the PACT Idea take home sheet in this kit.
- This lap game was featured in the 2010 Literacy Kit for Newborns:

  **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.

### Literacy Craft:

- Footprints, handprints – take out the paint!
  - Provide parents with paint, large pieces of paper and help them with this activity. Parents will gently “paint” or dip their child’s hands and feet in paint and press them on to the paper.
  - There are many variations for this activity. Create a collage of handprints or one simple handprint with the following poem (author unknown)

  Sometimes you get discouraged
  Because I am so small,
  And always leave my fingerprints
  On furniture and walls.
But everyday I am growing,
-I'll be grown up someday,
And all these tiny handprints
Will simply fade away.
So here's a final handprint
Just so you can recall,
Exactly how my fingers looked
When I was very small.

Ω

Older toddlers and preschoolers will love this next craft activity!
Roll a long piece of paper (bulletin board roll) across the floor.
Dip the child’s feet in paint and let them run down the paper.

### Parent Education:

- As babies grow, they begin to explore their world. They develop their sense of self and begin to understand that “Mommy has a nose, and I have a nose.” Playing games as described in the Literacy Extension section helps babies and toddlers develop their sense of “self”.
- Discuss this concept and the other ideas in the Developmental Information section. Brainstorm with families how they can help their child develop their sense of self.
- How do parents recognize the differences with their child? For example, when they walk with their toddler, do they walk at their toddler’s pace or is their toddler “running” to keep pace with them?
- Does their toddler choose the book they read and the activity they play?
- You may want parents to list their ideas and write a journal entry to you on this topic.
- Help parents create “Body Part” Dice:
  - Cover a large cube with colored paper or make a cube from heavy cardstock. (you can also cut and end of a shoe box to create the cube)
  - Paste different body parts on the sides of the cube (one per side). Play a game with the “dice” at playgroup and parents can take their cubes home. The game directions are listed in the PACT Idea Sheet.

  When (Child's Name)
  Rolls the dice, we touch our (Body Part),
  Rolls the dice, we touch our (Body Part),
  When (Child's Name) rolls the dice, we touch our (Body Part),
  We reach up high, When (Child's Name),
  Rolls the dice, we touch our (Body Part)

### Snack:

- Make gingerbread people with older children. Decorate and discuss their eyes, nose, etc.
- Make pancakes and decorate with raisins and fruit pieces to make a face.
- 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

All About Me! DK Publishing

READ THE BOOK:

- Cuddle with children of all ages to read the book All About Me!
- Read slowly, point to the pictures, and talk about what is happening in the book.
- Your baby will like to look at the other babies and your toddler will like to lift the flaps and imitate what is happening in the picture.

PAPER PLATE HANDPRINT:

- Paint or color a sturdy paper plate.
- Paint your child’s hand or foot with paint and gently press into the center of the plate.
- Punch a hole at the top of the plate and lace with a ribbon or yarn to hang.
- Make multiple “plates” and give as gifts.

LAP GAMES!

- Play “This Little Piggy…” Gently touch big toe and move through toes until you touch their pinkie toe.
- “This little piggy went to market.”
- “This little piggy stayed home.”
- “This little piggy had roast beef.” (or name your food)
- “This little piggy had none.”
- “This little piggy went wee-wee-wee all the way home!” (gently “dance” fingers up to baby’s chin or wiggle pinkie toe)
**Ten Little Fingers**

I have ten fingers and they all belong to me (hold hands up)
I can make them do things Would you like to see?
   I can shut them up tight (form fist)
   Or open them wide (hold fingers out)
I can put them together or make them all hide
   (Close both fists)
I can make them jump high (put hands over head)
   I can make them go low (put hands down)
I can fold them quietly and hold them just so (put hands in lap)

**BODY PART DICE:**

If you created this dice/cube in Parent Education, play this game with your child. Take turns being the person who rolls the dice, invite other family members, play with a stuffed animal!

When (Child’s Name)
Rolls the dice, we touch our (Body Part),
Rolls the dice, we touch our (Body Part),
When (Child’s Name) rolls the dice, we touch our (Body Part),
We reach up high, When (Child’s Name),
Rolls the dice, we touch our (Body Part)
This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your Baby & Toddler
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
  - Paper Plate
  - Paint
  - Ribbon
  - Body Part Dice made at Parent Education Class
- Journal Activity Sheet
What did you like about the book All About Me!? What body part and "activity" did your child like best? (for example, hands that wave bye-bye, eyes that open and close)

Does your child like "lift the flap" books? Do you play a "peek a boo" game when you read these books?

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

References

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Kuffner, Trish (1999), The Toddler Busy Book, Meadow Brook Press, Minnetonka, Minnesota


Manoloson, Ward, and Dodington (2007), You Make The Difference, The Hanen Centre Toronto, ON Canada


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Pamela Cote 2011

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National Center for Family Literacy (2009), *What Works – An Introductory Teacher Guide for Early Language and Emergent Literacy Instruction*, Based on the National Early Literacy Panel Report, Louisville, KY

Reading to Your Baby (n.d.), from babycenter.com retrieved August 4, 2011 from [http://www.babycenter.com/0_reading-to-your-baby_368.bc](http://www.babycenter.com/0_reading-to-your-baby_368.bc)

Springvale Public Library, *Baby Rhyme Time* (2011), Springvale, Maine


Your 4-Month-Old’s Development: Week 1 (n.d.), from babycenter.com retrieved August 4, 2011 from [http://www.babycenter.com/0_your-4-month-olds-development-week-1_1477216.bc#articlesection3](http://www.babycenter.com/0_your-4-month-olds-development-week-1_1477216.bc#articlesection3)

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.whatttoexpect.com