The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and Maine’s Raising Readers are pleased to present the 2012 Literacy Explorer Kits

Each Literacy Explorer Kit provides theme activities for the 2012 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!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newborn</th>
<th>9 months</th>
<th>2 years</th>
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<td><strong>Book!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Animals (My Little Carry Me Books)</strong></td>
<td><strong>I Can Help</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristine O'Connell George</td>
<td>DK Publishing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Time For Bed</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hop a Little, Jump a Little!</strong></td>
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<td>Mem Fox</td>
<td>Annie Kubler</td>
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<td><strong>Chunky Books</strong></td>
<td><strong>Who Hoo Are You?</strong></td>
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<td>– 4 pack</td>
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<td>Priddy Books</td>
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<td><strong>2 months</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hip, Hop</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Catherine Hnatov</td>
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<td><strong>4 months</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Quack Quack, Maisy</strong></td>
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<td>Maisy Cousins</td>
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<td><strong>6 months</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Baby Faces</strong></td>
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<td>DK Publishing</td>
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<td><strong>9 months</strong></td>
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<td><strong>12 months</strong></td>
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<td><strong>15 months</strong></td>
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<td><strong>18 months</strong></td>
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<td><strong>5 years</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Maine Stories</strong></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.
**Hip, Hop by Catherine Hnatov**

This kit includes the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Reading Tips &amp; Developmental Information</td>
<td>(Place a copy in “Explorer Bags”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playgroup Map - Theme Related Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent and Child Together Time Ideas</td>
<td>(Place a copy in “Explorer Bags“ with needed supplies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explorer Bag Information Sheet</td>
<td>(Place a copy in “Explorer Bags“)</td>
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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 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 to your baby! They love to hear your voice rhyming a nursery rhyme or lullaby.
✓ 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 - 2 Months:
✓ Your baby begins to like more complex patterns and designs, colors and shapes. Prop a book up for him/her to look at.
✓ Babies can tell the difference between different voices and sounds. They become a better listener - notice how they look towards noises in the room or someone approaching.
✓ They begin to coo, smile and use different cries to express their needs.
✓ They love one-sided conversations, so talk to your baby! Babies will watch your mouth move – fascinated by how it moves.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Read the Book:</th>
<th>Literacy Extensions:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• <em>Hip, Hop</em> is book that shows animals in black and white images. It has simple text and describes what the animal does and then repeats the noise the animal makes. For example, “The bird sings. Tweet, Tweet.”</td>
<td>• After you have read the book a few times, try showing the pictures in the book without reading the text. Cover the text page with your hand or a piece of paper. See how the children react. Do they try to make the noise or movement the animal makes?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• This is a book that you could read and “sing” to your baby. Babies love to hear a “sing song” voice. Try reading and then singing the book. Do you notice a difference?</td>
<td>• Play a younger version of “charades” with the children. Have each parent and child decide on an animal that they want to pretend to be. Give each family a turn in acting like their animal. Everyone should try to guess what their animal is.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literacy Craft:</th>
<th>Music &amp; Movement:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Black and White Pictures:</td>
<td>Let’s do the Bunny Hop! Put on some music and let the children bounce around like the Hip, Hop Bunny on the front cover of the book.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide families with black and white construction paper, scissors and a glue stick. You may want to provide families with templates of animals for this activity.</td>
<td>• Teach them the Bunny Hop!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Families will trace and cut the animal of their choice. Have them glue their cutout onto a piece of contrasting paper. For example, if they cut a cat out of white paper, they will glue it onto black paper. If they cut a dog out of black paper, have them glue it onto white paper.</td>
<td>o Form a line with everyone holding on to each others hips (or shoulders) or place hands gently on the person’s back in front of you.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Use a black crayon to add ears, eyes, etc.</td>
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</table>
- Place your right foot out and in two times.
- Place your left foot out and in two times.
- Hop forward once, backwards once and then forward three times
- Repeat this motion around the room.
- There are no lyrics to the Bunny Hop, but you can search “bunny hop” online and find a site to listen to the melody or purchase the music.

- Finger play time - Baby Bunny (this fun finger play was found on www.everythingpreschool.com)

Baby bunny dressed in blue (Hold up two fingers like bunny ears)
Met another; then there were two. (hold up two fingers on both hands)
  Bouncy bunnies to the left. (Move fingers to left.)
  Bouncy bunnies to the right. (Move fingers to right.)
  Bouncy bunnies get in bed. (Put head on hands like sleeping.)
  Off to bed, you sleepy heads. (Pretend to sleep.)

**Parent Education:**

- Parents may not realize this, but *Hip, Hop* will become one of baby’s favorite books because of the contrasting colors, black and white. Gather books that feature contrasting colors like black, white, and red. Babies see these contrasting colors more clearly, so they will like to look at the book. Encourage parents to “prop the book” up for baby to look at.

- Ask parents how they would read these books to their child? Many times parents struggle with the simple text in board books. Remind them to think about reading “face to face” with their baby, showing the pictures without reading the text, and changing their voice tone – from high to low, regular to singsong.

- **Reading Strategy:** Did you ever notice how comfortable babies and children are exploring books? The book is turned in all different directions, flipped through, bounced, maybe even chewed on. We need to teach parents to explore books too before jumping right into them. This is called “Surveying the Text,” and it’s a great strategy to use when checking out a text book or long informational article. Talk with parents about how they can “survey” the text by reading the title of an article, looking for subheadings, checking out all parts of a book – does it have a glossary, are their maps in the text book, etc. Model this simple strategy by using the “Book Discovery Sheet” in this kit. They apply the activity first to children’s books and then you might want to have them bring a school book or article to the next parent education class to “survey” with you. Create a scavenger hunt for surveying text by listing questions on an activity sheet, such as, “What do you notice about the Table of Contents? How are the chapters arranged in this text book? Does this article have subheadings?”, etc.

- Talk about how parents can engage with the book by pointing at the pictures and naming the object shown. Explain to them that they are helping their child’s social development and thinking skills when they
allow baby to look, point, touch, and sometimes chew on the book!

<table>
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<th>Snack:</th>
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<td>• Bunny Pears: Place a pear half on a piece of lettuce. Place a scoop of cottage cheese next to the pear for the bunny tail. Place two raisins on the pear for eyes and two small pieces of carrot sticks above the pear to make bunny ears. This snack idea is from <a href="http://www.perpetualpreschool.com">www.perpetualpreschool.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• In addition, choose a variety of healthy snacks for all ages of the playgroup. Model healthy snack choices and talk about options for different ages.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Gather round – have a spot for everyone. Parents with newborns can be a part of snack time, too!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Simple snack ideas: cut up bananas, soft crackers and yogurt.</td>
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This book is about....

I notice that it is arranged by...

My baby would like...

When I read this book, I will...
**Parent and Child Together Time Ideas**

*Hip, Hop by Catherine Hnatov*

**READ THE BOOK:**

- Try reading the book to your baby in two different ways. First, read the book by cuddling with your child. Second, read the book “face to face” with your child. Do you have a preference for how you read books to your children?
- *Hip, Hop* will be interesting to your baby because the pictures are in black and white. Point to the picture while reading the text. You may want to repeat the second line on each page. For example, “The bird sings. Tweet, tweet. Tweet, tweet.”

**COTTONBALL BUNNY:**

- Older children can make a “cotton ball” bunny.
- Cut out the picture of the bunny.
- Provide your child with white liquid glue on a paper plate and a pile of cotton balls.
- Encourage your child to dip the cotton ball in the glue and stick the cotton ball on to the bunny.
- Let your child place the cotton balls wherever they would like on the bunny. Remember, this is their bunny!
- Decorate the bunny with construction paper to make a nose and eyes if you would like!

**FISH IN A BOWL:**

- Older children can make a “fish in a bowl.”
- Trace, cut and color the fish pattern.
- Decorate the side of a paper plate that you would put food on to look like a fish bowl. What colors does your child want to use?
Attach a piece of yarn to the top of the “fish” (hole punch and tie or tape). “Dangle” the fish on the pie plate (as if the fish was swimming in the “fishbowl.”) Tape the end of the yarn that is not attached to the fish to the back side of the paper plate.

Take the piece of colored plastic (saran) wrap and place it over the plate, so that it looks like water and that the fish is in the bowl. Tape the saran wrap to the back side of the plate.

Jiggle the “bowl” and watch the fish “swim.”
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:
  - Bunny and Fish Template
  - White Glue
  - Heavy Construction Paper
  - Crayons and/or markers
  - Cotton Balls, Yarn, Paper Plate
  - One piece of colored plastic wrap
- Journal Activity Sheet
JOURNAL - *Hip, Hop* by Catherine Hnatov

Do you think your child had a favorite black and white page in *Hip, Hop*? Do you have other books that show contrasting colors?

Were you surprised to learn that babies like to look at contrasting colors, like red, black, and white?

How did you read this book to your baby? Did you point to pictures and name them? Sing the book to them? Make up your own words?
I'll write back to you here...
References

Armbruster, Lehr, and Osborn (2006), *A Child Becomes a Reader*, National Institute for Literacy, RMC Research Corporation, Portsmouth, NH


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


National Center for Family Literacy and Snuggle (2002), *Reading Through The Years*, Gruner+Jahr Publishing, USA

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

Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics
www.healthychildren.org

Baby Center
www.babycenter.com

Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy
www.barbarabushfoundation.com

Everything Preschool – Early Childhood Education Made Easy
www.everythingpreschool.com

Medline Plus
www.nlm.nih.gov

Preschool Education
www.preschooleducation.com

Scholastic
www.scholastic.com

Songs for Teaching
www.songsforteaching.com

The Perpetual Preschool
www.perpetualpreschool.com

What To Expect
www.whattoexpect.com