The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and 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!
BOOK LIST 2012

Celebrating 12 years and over 1.7 million books given to children in Maine.
For more information call 1-800-397-3263 or visit www.raisingreaders.org

**Newborn**
- Book!
  Kristine O'Connell George
- Time For Bed
  Mem Fox
- Chunky Books
  Catherine Hnatov

**2 months**
- Hip, Hop
  Catherine Hnatov

**4 months**
- Quack Quack, Maisy
  Lucy Cousins

**6 months**
- Baby Faces
  DK Publishing

**9 months**
- Animals (My Little Carry Me Books)
  DK Publishing

**12 months**
- Hop a Little, Jump a Little!
  Annie Kubler

**15 months**
- Who Hoo Are You?
  Kate Endle

**18 months**
- Who's in the Forest?
  Phyllis Gershator

**2 years**
- I Can Help
  David Hyde Costello

**3 years**
- For Just One Day
  Laura Leuck

**4 years**
- Homer, the Library Cat
  Reeve Lindbergh

**5 years**
- Maine Stories for Maine Children:
  A Raising Readers Collection

**9 months**
- Animals (My Little Carry Me Books)
  DK Publishing

**12 months**
- Hop a Little, Jump a Little!
  Annie Kubler
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.
Hop a Little, Jump a Little! By Annie Kubler

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 Barbara Bush Foundation & Raising Readers
PC 2013
General Reading Tips & Developmental Information

General Reading Tips:
✓ Read to your baby every day. Make it part of your routine and have a set time to read: before bed or naptime, after a bath.
✓ Cuddle while you read – make baby feel safe and loved.
✓ Reading helps build vocabulary and stimulates a child’s imagination. It also helps improve his/her communication skills.
✓ Babies love to hear singing, so look for books with rhythm and nursery rhymes. Read with expression – use different voices and make faces that match what is going on in the story.
✓ Store books in your diaper bag – they are great to have while stuck in traffic or waiting for an appointment.

For your 12 Month Old:
✓ Babies start to understand that pictures are objects. He/she will start to have favorite pictures, pages, and as they approach 12 months favorite books!
✓ Encourage your baby to hold the book and he/she will start “helping” you turn the pages by the time he/she is 12 months old! He/she will flip many pages at the same time.
✓ Don’t worry about reading the story perfectly. Stop and ask questions or point out pictures.
✓ Babies love repetition, so don’t be afraid to keep reading the same book over and over again.
✓ Help your baby build his/her vocabulary by reading and naming people and objects in his/her environment.

Developmental Milestones You May Notice:
✓ Baby is pulling him/herself up and begins to take steps.
✓ Begins to test how you respond to their actions and cries.
✓ Understands several words and simple commands. Waves bye.
✓ Begins to develop attachment and affection for certain objects.
✓ Tries to imitate animal sounds – loves books that show animals and expresses verbally the noise they make.
**Playgroup Map**

*Hop a Little, Jump a Little! By Annie Kubler*

### Read the Book:
- *Hop a Little, Jump a Little!* is a book that will get children moving! The book includes movement and counting and shows happy children smiling and laughing as they hop and jump through the book.
- Don’t rush through the book. Be sure to move the book around the reading circle so that all the children can see the happy children moving. Sometimes children become impatient to see the picture, say to them, “Everyone will get a turn,” and take the time needed for each child to view the pictures.
- Read the book once and on the second time read it in a singsong voice. You may want to tap your feet while reading and stop on the second page to clap out the “one, two, three!” At the end of the book, have the families yawn, stretch and pretend to “sleep a little.”

### Literacy Extensions:
- There are many extensions that you can do with this book:
  - Let’s exercise! Do simple stretching exercises with children like touching toes and wiggling arms and legs. You may want to search online for some yoga moves for toddlers and preschoolers.
  - Sing these songs and do the movements:
    - **“Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes”**
      
      Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Knees and Toes,  
      Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Knees and Toes,  
      And Eyes, and Ears, and Mouth, and Nose  
      Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Knees and Toes,  
    
    (sing this song at three different paces, regular, super slow and super “fudge” fast. Children’s favorite is usually super fast!)
  
  - **“If You’re Happy and You Know It”.**
    
    If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands,  
    If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands,  
    If you’re happy and you know it and you really want to show it,  
    If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands.  
    (Replace “clap your hands” with “stamp your feet,” “shout hurray” and “do all three”)

### Literacy Craft:
- Create a stick puppet that your child can make dance.
  - Provide each family with a paint stirrer, felt, material, scissors, glue, markers, googly eyes and a round circle (various colors) for the face.
  - Glue the round circle to the top of the paint stirrer. Glue on googly eyes and using a marker create a nose and mouth.
  - Have families cut the felt and material to form “clothes” for the puppet. Children may not be able to cut the material, but they can pick out what they want their puppet to “wear.” Glue the
material to the paint stirrer and allow to dry.
- Older children can have their puppets dance and move during “Music & Movement Time.”

- **Ribbon Sticks:**
  - Provide families with the following: long thin dowels purchased from a craft store or hardware store, long different colored ribbons, duct tape (colored duct tape is fun!). You can purchase rolls of ribbon and cut them to the desired length.
  - Let families choose about five different colors. Lay the dowel flat and lay the ribbons on one end so they stream off the dowel. Attach the ribbons using a few pieces of duct tape.
  - Hold the stick by the end that does not have the ribbons attached and swirl the stick to see the ribbons dance.

**Music & Movement:**

- Choose music that has a peppy beat or is familiar to the children. Turn the music up and get everyone dancing. March around the room, form a parade, form a circle and move in and out – anything to get families moving. You may want to provide families with different colored scarves (lightweight) that they can twirl with their child.
- Practice the movements in the book and follow a pattern, two hops, three jumps, one skip and a tap on the knee. Encourage each family to create a simple rhythm pattern that the other families must repeat.
- After a few upbeat songs, put on a slow “lullaby” type song. Turn the lights on low and slowly move to the beat eventually ending up back on the floor for a cuddle and a nice close to music and movement time.

**Math:**

- In this story, one of the children “jumps a little one, two, three.” Practice counting with families using a soft, medium size ball.
- Hold the ball and say, “I am going to count to five. Count with me” and bounce the ball five times. With each bounce, call out the number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
- Gently toss the ball to a family and have them call out a number and bounce the ball while the other families count with them.
- Continue tossing the ball around the circle until everyone has a turn.
- Families may want to bounce the ball for the age of their child. You might want to also incorporate items in the room. For example, “how many windows are in our playroom? Yes, Four. Let’s count to four. 1,2,3,4.”

**Parent Education:**

- Toddlers are busy exploring and it is important for parents to keep them safe while they explore their environment – inside and outside. Provide parents with a safety checklist (sample in this kit) that parents can check and discuss during the parent education class.
  - Items to include on your safety checklist are: childproofing with safety gates, covering electrical outlets, locking cabinets with sharp objects and hazardous materials inside, such as cleaning materials.
  - Parents should go through their home at the height level of their child with a very critical eye. Nothing is off limits for a toddler! They should check for loose cords, small objects that a child may put in their mouths, burn hazards, etc.
| **Reading Strategy:** At times, parents are inundated with pieces of reading for or about their child that is informational. Notices from school, prescriptions, assembly instructions for toys, etc. (1) Gather different types of informational reading material and if possible, ask parents to bring in their own reading material, such as notices from school. (2) Discuss the best way to read informational text and how parents currently read this type of information. Do they scan the text for headings? Look for large print? Read the fine details? (3) Model “Surveying the Text” for them. Talk with parents about how they can “survey” the text by reading the title of an article, look for subheadings, check out all parts of the article or instructions, etc. If the reading material has diagrams, you might want to discuss if parents feel it is easier for them to understand instructions if diagrams are available to view. This could lead to a discussion on the type of learner they are….hands on, verbal, visual, etc. |
| Snack: |
| • 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. |
Let's Be Safe!

Once toddlers begin exploring their world, no area in your home is safe from their little hands! Make sure that your child is safe by completing this safety checklist. Bring it back to your Parent Education class to discuss.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Check Completed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Outlets</td>
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<td>Loose Cords</td>
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<td>Sharp Objects</td>
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<td>Cleaning Supplies</td>
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<td>Locked Cabinets</td>
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<td>Safety Gates</td>
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<td>Toilet Lids Closed</td>
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</tbody>
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Changes I made in my home...

A Collaboration of the Barbara Bush Foundation & Raising Readers PC 2013
Parent and Child Together Time Ideas

Hop a Little, Jump a Little! By Annie Kubler

READ THE BOOK:
- You’ll like reading *Hop a Little, Jump a Little!* with your child as it shows toddlers moving, smiling and having fun.
- Read the book to your child several times over the week and add movement while you read the book. Bounce your baby gently or tap feet together on the page that counts “one, two, three.”
- You might want to try to memorize the text and make it into a song. Then, you can sing and dance “the book” around your house!

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT:
- You might have sung these songs during playgroup. Try to sing to your child every day.

  “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes”
  Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Knees and Toes,
  Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Knees and Toes,
  And Eyes, and ears, and Mouth, and Nose,
  Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Knees and Toes,
  (sing this song at three different paces, regular, super slow and super fast. Children’s favorite is usually super fast!)

  “If You’re Happy and You Know It”.
  If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands,
  If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands,
  If you’re happy and you know it and you really want to show it,
  If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands.
  (Replace “clap your hands” with “stamp your feet”, “shout hurray” and “do all three”)
This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your 12-Month-Old
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Journal Activity Sheet
Do you ever use movement to “move” your child to another activity? For example, if they don’t want to get in their PJs, you might say, “Let’s hop like a bunny right into these Pajamas.” Describe a time when you have done this or might do it.

Did your toddler like the movement songs listed on the PACT Idea sheet? What types of movement songs do they like?

Do you sing and dance with your baby? Do you think they have a favorite song?
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.whatttoexpect.com