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!
# Raising Readers 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newborn</th>
<th>9 months</th>
<th>2 years</th>
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| Baby Bear’s Books  
Melissa Sweet  
*What Does Baby See?*  
Begin Smart | Peek-a-Boo What?  
Begin Smart | Pouch!  
David Ezra Stein |
| Vroom Vroom Maisy  
Lucy Cousins | Look at That!  
Guido Van Genechten |                  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 months</th>
<th>12 months</th>
<th>3 years</th>
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</table>
| Look at That!  
Guido Van Genechten | Look at You!  
Kathy Henderson | The Seals on the Bus  
Lenny Hort |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>4 months</th>
<th>15 months</th>
<th>4 years</th>
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</table>
| I Love Colors  
Margaret Miller | Knees and Toes  
Rookie Toddler | Kiss the Cow!  
Phyllis Root |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>6 months</th>
<th>18 months</th>
<th>5 years</th>
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</table>
| All About Me  
DK Publishing | Meeow and the Little Chairs  
Sebastien Braun | Raising Readers: A Treasury of Tales from Maine |
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.
Look at That! by Guido Van Genechten

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 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 - Newborn:
✓ Your newborn’s brain is developing quickly. You promote healthy brain growth when you cuddle, sing, and care for your baby.
✓ Babies express how they feel through facial expressions and sound to tell you their needs.
✓ Newborns have all five senses. They quickly learn to recognize your face, how you sound, and your smell.
✓ Muscles start to strengthen and hands fist when your baby is very alert.
✓ Help your baby grow and develop by using a high pitched voice, gentle touch, hugs, and kisses.

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**Read the Book:**

- *Look at That!* is a book that is perfect for babies. Each page has a picture of an animal on it. Each of them smile at the reader and their name is placed below their picture in black print.
- Toddlers will enjoy this book if you read it slowly while pointing to each picture. Ask them if they can identify the picture on each page, what colors do they see, what sounds might go with the picture.
- Make connections while you read, such as, “Caterpillar. Oh, has anyone seen a caterpillar outside? I wonder if the caterpillar will turn into a pink butterfly like on the other page?”

**Literacy Extensions:**

- Create a *Look at That!* game during circle time. Have families gather one item from the play area. Sit in a circle. Slowly go around the room and have parents show their item to the group. They should say a one word description of the item (modeling the book)
- Play “I Spy”. Teach them this phrase, “I spy with my little eye something that is red and round.” (for example, stop sign in the play area)
- This book explores sight and sound. You may want to incorporate the other senses. Here is a fun song to sing at story time from [www.everythingpreschool.com](http://www.everythingpreschool.com)

**My Senses**

Oh, with your fingers what do you feel?
Oh, with your fingers what do you feel?
Oh, tell me what do you feel with your fingers? (let children answer)
Oh, with your fingers what do you feel

Oh, with your nose what do you smell?
Oh, with your nose what do you smell?
Oh, tell me what do you smell with your nose? (let children answer)
Oh, with your nose what do you smell?

Oh, with your tongue what do you taste?
Oh, with your tongue what do you taste?
Oh, tell me what do you taste with your tongue? (let children answer)
Oh, with your tongue what do you taste?

Oh, with your eyes what do you see?
Oh, with your eyes what do you see?
Oh, tell me what do you see with your eyes? (let children answer)
Oh, with your eyes what do you see?
| **Literacy Craft:** | Oh, with your ears what do you hear?  
Oh, with your ears what do you hear?  
Oh, tell me what do you hear with your ear? (let children answer)  
Oh, with your ears what do you hear? |
|---|---|
| • Create your own *Look at That!* Book  
  o Creating books for children is easy. Parents can create a *Look at That!* book with magazine pictures, simple prints you provide, or by drawing their own pictures.  
  o Use heavy card stock and black markers. Have parents place one picture per page and write the word under the picture. | |
| **Parent Education:** | Many times parents struggle to read books to their children that have little or no text. It is important to model these books with parents. You may want to share *Look at That!* with them before story time. Ask them how they think they might “read” this story to their child.  
• Find other books that make the connection between one picture and one sound. Share these with the families.  
• This is a great book to read “face to face”. Parents should sit facing their baby and hold the book, so they can see their baby’s face. Watching their expressions allows parents to know what pages excite their babies the most!  
• The craft activity in the PACT Idea Take Home sheet is a “collage”. Explain to parents what a collage is and how they can make one with their child. |
| **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. |
Parent and Child Together Time Ideas

*Look at That!* by Guido Van Genechten

**READ THE BOOK:**
- *Look at That!* is a book that helps your baby make a connection between a picture and a sound.
- Turn the pages slowly and point to each picture. Say the word.
- As your baby grows, keep reading this book. Start pointing out colors. Make the animal noises. Ask questions, such as, “I wonder if the caterpillar will turn into a pink butterfly like on the other page?”

**LOOK AT THAT! COLLAGE:**
- Look in magazines and find similar pictures to *Look at That!* Look for a dog, butterfly, horse, etc. Or cut out simple pictures from a coloring book.
- Help your child cut them apart and glue them all over a large sheet of paper to make a collage.
- Play a game of “look at that” and “point at that” with your child.

**SING A SONG:** (everyone loves this one!)

```
Old Macdonald had a Farm E I E I O
On this farm, he had a horse, E I E I O
With a neigh, neigh here and a neigh neigh there
Here a neigh, there a neigh, everywhere a neigh neigh
Old Macdonald had a Farm E I E I O
On this farm, he had a horse, E I E I O
```

(repeat with different animals from the book...be silly, what does the caterpillar say?)

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Pamela Cote 2012
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:
  - Magazines or coloring book pages of different animals
  - Scissors, glue stick
- Journal Activity Sheet
JOURNAL - *Look at That!* by Guido Van Genechten

What did you like about the book *Look at That!*? Do you think your child had a favorite page?

Was it challenging to read a book with one word on each page?

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


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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

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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