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!

A Collaboration of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers
Pamela Cote 2012
**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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<tr>
<th>Newborn</th>
<th>2 months</th>
<th>9 months</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Baby Bear's Books</em></td>
<td><em>Look at That!</em></td>
<td><em>Peek-a-Boo What?</em></td>
<td><em>Pouch!</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Sweet</td>
<td>Guido Van Genechten</td>
<td>Begin Smart</td>
<td>David Ezra Stein</td>
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<td><em>What Does Baby See?</em></td>
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<td><em>Begin Smart</em></td>
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<td><em>Vroom Vroom Maisy</em></td>
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<td>Lucy Cousins</td>
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<th>12 months</th>
<th>15 months</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Look at You!</em></td>
<td><em>Knees and Toes</em></td>
<td><em>The Seals on the Bus</em></td>
<td><em>Kiss the Cow!</em></td>
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<td>Kathy Henderson</td>
<td>Rookie Toddler</td>
<td>Lenny Hort</td>
<td>Phyllis Root</td>
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<th>5 years</th>
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<td><em>Meeow and the Little Chairs</em></td>
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<td><em>Raising Readers: A Treasury of Tales from Maine</em></td>
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<td>Sebastien Braun</td>
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<th>6 months</th>
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<td><em>All About Me</em></td>
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<td>DK Publishing</td>
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</table>
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:
✓ Find a time to read every day. Bedtime is a great time to read – it will help your child relax before bed.
✓ Cuddle Up! This is the time to get cozy.
✓ Be Silly! Be Funny! Use Sound Effects!
✓ Read it – Again and Again and Again…Children love to read the same book more than once.
✓ Follow your child's lead; let him/her set the pace.
✓ Talk about what you read: What do you think will happen next?

For Your Two Year Old:
✓ Keep books simple. Find interactive books, like Pat the Bunny
✓ Ask questions while you read, like “What do you think will happen next? Or “What is this? It’s a bunny!”
✓ Squirming away or pushing the book away are clues that they want to move to a different activity.
✓ Your child will probably want to pick out the book and turn the pages. They will like to hunt for their favorite picture!

Developmental Milestones You May Notice:
✓ Builds tower of four blocks or more
✓ Begins to sort by shapes and colors
✓ Scribbles spontaneously
✓ Points to object or picture when named for him
✓ Uses simple phrases
✓ Demonstrates increasing independence
Read the Book:

- *Pouch!* is a book that explores the concept of going away and coming back. Joey wants to explore, but needs the reassurance that his mother is waiting for him when he gets scared.
- Joey “hops” to a new surrounding and each time he goes someplace new he “hops” a little further. Count the hops with the children as you read. Ask them if they know the answer to his question “Who are you?” on the different pages.
- Joey finds something very special at the end of the story – a friend!

Literacy Extensions:

- Have children practice “hopping” like a kangaroo. Have them “hop” to circle time.
- Once they have “hopped” to circle time, have them sing a friendship song.

```
Will you meet a friend of mine?
Will you meet a friend of mine?
Friend of mine? Friend of mine?
Will you meet a friend of mine?
This is my friend (child's name),
```

- How do other animals move? Have them practice the movement. Play a game of charades using animal movements. Children will “slither” for families to guess “snake” or “lumber” with their arm moving like a trunk for an “elephant”.
- Provide each child with an apron or make one (see directions in Literacy craft section) Have them carry items in their “pouch”. Incorporate a guessing game. Have them pick a simple object, such as a plate. Parents can help younger children with the statements about the object, such as “It is round.” “You can eat off of it.” Other families try to guess what is in the “pouch”.
- What is the name of a Baby Kangaroo? A Joey! Talk with children about this and see if they make the connection to the baby kangaroo in the story

Literacy Craft:

- Create a pouch with recyclable materials:
  - Use a large brown paper bag or a piece of fabric. Cut the material or bag to form a rectangle. This is the background of the pouch (think of it as an apron). Attach string or ribbon to the rectangle. You can sew, glue, or staple the string/ribbon. Cut a large paper plate in half or use scraps from your material. Attach the plate to the rectangular material. Using material allows you to be more detailed (and will make it sturdier).
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<tr>
<th><strong>Family Portraits:</strong></th>
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<td>o Decide who will be in your family portraits. Each family member’s face is drawn and colored on a paper plate. Punch a hole at the top of the plate and string a ribbon through the hole. Hang the “portraits” together to make a “gallery.”</td>
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<th><strong>Science:</strong></th>
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<td>o Research facts about Kangaroos with parents or the whole family. How fast can a Kangaroo move? (25 to 40 mph) How far can they leap (5-6 feet, some up to 25 feet). How high can they jump? (6-10 feet).</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Older preschoolers will love trying to jump like a Kangaroo. Outside: Draw a starting line with chalk. Then, draw a line 6 feet out and explain to children that Kangaroos can leap that far. Have children take turns leaping and mark where they land with chalk marks. Inside: use masking tape for the markers.</td>
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<td>o How do Kangaroos carry their babies? (in a pouch). Talk about how other animals carry their babies. Older children can choose an animal to research. Provide a cut out of the animal and have families write animal facts around the picture.</td>
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<th><strong>Parent Education:</strong></th>
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<td>o Toddlers are busy exploring, and it is important for parents to keep them safe while they explore their environment – inside and outside. Explore a safety checklist that parents can check and discuss during the parent education class.</td>
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<td>o Items to include on your safety checklist are: childproofing with safety gates, covering electrical outlets, locking cabinets with sharp objects and hazardous materials, such as cleaning materials.</td>
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<td>o 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.</td>
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<td>o Joey explores his environment safely with Mama watching. Joey knows that Mama is waiting for him, and he can always return back to her. How do parents help their child feel secure? Do they say goodbye at the child care center or do they distract their child and run out because they might cry? Share this poem by Ruth Reardon from <em>Listening to the Littlest</em> with parents and discuss its very important meaning.</td>
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**When you leave mother**

you don’t need my permission.

It’s good for you and good for me

but tell me! Don’t disappear.

Better I scream my disapproval

than live in vague suspicion

that I’ll find you gone again.

For then I’d have to “guard” you,

afraid to leave your side to play.
Don’t disappear – tell me that you’re leaving, and that you’re coming back! In telling me, you’re also teaching me to feel all right one day, When I leave you…for short times, and longer, longer…times.

**Snack:**

- Kangaroo begins with K – rename fruit kabobs to “Kangaroo Kabobs”
  - Push chunks of fruit and colored mini marshmallows onto a brightly colored drinking straw.
- 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.
- Gather round – have a spot for everyone. Parents with newborns can be a part of snack time, too!
Parent and Child Together Time Ideas

_Pouch! by David Ezra Stein_

**READ THE BOOK:**
- Read _Pouch!_ to your child more than once. Have a conversation with them about the book.
  - Did they know that a baby kangaroo is called a _Joey_?
  - How many hops does _Joey_ take at the beginning of the story? How many hops does he take at the end?
  - Were they surprised that _Joey_ met another _Joey_ in the story?

**CARRYING POUCH AND KANGAROO BAG:**
- You need two paper plates.
- Cut one paper plate in half and attach it to the lower part of the other plate to form a pouch. Attach it with glue or staples. (cover staples with tape). Decorate the pouch.
- Decorate a lunch sized brown paper bag using felt and crayons to make a Kangaroo puppet. Cut apart a second bag to create a pouch on your Kangaroo. Using the scraps, cut out a “joey” to go in the pouch. Read the story with your puppets!

**KANGAROO HOP:**
- Can your child hop and leap like a Kangaroo? Can they hop and leap while carrying their pouch.
- Put on your imagination hat and pretend to be Kangaroos - hop and leap to music.
- Play a game of “Freeze Hop”. Turn the music off and freeze your hops and leaps.
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:
  - Two paper plates
  - Two lunch size brown paper bag
  - Brown, black and red felt
  - Crayons, markers, scissors, glue
- Journal Activity Sheet
### JOURNAL - *Pouch! by David Ezra Stein*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tr>
<td>What did you like about the book <em>Pouch!</em>? Had your child heard of a Kangaroo before reading this story?</td>
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<td>How does your toddler explore the world? Are they cautious about trying new things?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What PACT activity did you do with your child? What went well? What didn’t go so well?</td>
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</table>
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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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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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.whattotoexpect.com