

BARBARA BUSH FOUNDATION FOR FAMILY LITERACY

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!



Quack Quack, Maisy by Lucy Cousins

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")



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 - 4 Months:

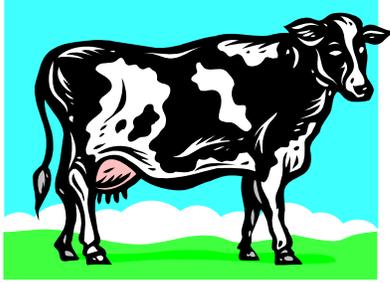
- ✓ Research shows that your baby can now understand the basic sounds of his/her native language.
- ✓ Imitate the expressions and sounds your baby makes to encourage communication.
- ✓ React when your baby makes a noise or tries to say something - this will tell your baby that language is important.
- ✓ Give meaning to what your baby says. Name the object they are trying to say.
- ✓ Your baby is developing a sense of humor and may laugh at "Peek-a-Boo" and other happy surprises.



Playgroup Map

Quack Quack, Maisy by Lucy Cousins

<p><i>Read the Book:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maisy makes animal noises in this small board book that features animals and their sounds. Each page features an animal in bright contrasting colors, many featuring a baby’s favorite contrasts: red, black, and white. • Enjoy reading this book many times and watch the children anticipate the upcoming animal and make the noise the animal makes. • Do you notice anything about the order of the animal sounds? They are (almost) in alphabetical order. The M and N noises share one page. Point to the first letter in each sound. Then, say the letter in a singsong way as if you were singing the alphabet. Next, sing the Alphabet as a group!
<p><i>Literacy Extensions:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many extensions you can do with this book during circle time! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sing “Old MacDonald had a Farm” ○ Make animal noises with the children. (make the noises just for fun or play “noise” charades with younger children. One child makes the noise and everyone guesses the animal). ○ Look at the alphabet pattern in the book (point out that M and N are switched). ○ Have an animal parade. Have each family/child be an animal (see animal mask activity in craft section or for a quick activity just have them make the noise). Line up and make the animal noises! ○ On the last page, Maisy is riding the horse. Have each child ride a “horse” after they complete the craft in the PACT idea section of this kit. See the PACT idea section for instructions on making the paper bag horse head. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Place the paper bag horse head over the “sweeping” part of a kid’s size broom or long wooden dowel (you are creating a horse riding stick) - then have the children straddle the wooden part of the broom/dowel to “ride” the horse and “lead” the parade. ▪ This activity should be supervised and the parent should help the child lead the parade. ▪ Each child may have a turn; just continue to change the paper bag “horse head.” • Gather round with animal sounds. Do this activity after you complete the craft in the Literacy Craft section. This activity is also featured in the Literacy Explorer Kit <i>Bob</i>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pass one card of each out to each family. ○ Families move around the room making their animal sound. For example, if their card has a picture of a cow on it, they “moo”

	<p>and listen for the other family that is mooing!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is a great way to gather families together for story time! ○ You can also use the animal sound cards for a game of “Memory.”
<p>Literacy Craft:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Masks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide each family with a paper plate. Parents should cut out an opening for the child’s eyes. Decorate the plate using crayons, markers, yarn and material to resemble the chosen animal. ○ Make a hole punch on either side of the animal “face.” String yarn through the holes to attach to the child’s face. ○ You are now ready for your animal parade! • Animal Sound Cards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make a set of index cards – 2 cards per animal. ○ Have each family choose an animal. Provide them with the template of the animal, a coloring page, or a magazine cut out. Families color, cut, and paste their animals (2 cards, one animal per card) onto large index cards. ○ Write the SOUND the animal makes on the card. <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>MOO</p> </div>
<p>Science:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This book follows an alphabetical pattern. Discuss “order” and “patterns” with families. Such as, “the sun comes up, the sun goes down.” Or, “I put my jacket on, and I go outside.” • Set up pattern stations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Colored blocks – sort by color or model a pattern. Place a blue, yellow and red block in that order. Can the older toddlers and preschoolers make that pattern? ○ Gather sets of different items from the play area, books, blocks, play food, cars, etc. Encourage children to make their own patterns. Patterns do not have to be with single items. For example: 1 car, 2 blocks, 1 book – 1 car, 2 blocks, 1 book. Look to see if the pattern repeats. ○ Show the children an image of a large sun and moon. Have pictures of different things they might do during the day, such as, eat breakfast, read a book, get dressed, pajamas, toothbrush, sleep, etc. Have the children place the pictures by the sun or moon. With older children, discuss the order of the day and how you might do some of these things in the morning and again at night.

Parent Education:

- It’s important for children to have structure and a daily routine. Not only does it make the day go smoother, it makes the child feel secure. (This does not mean that occasional spontaneous changes to routine are not okay.) Talk with parents about what their daily routine is. For example, do they read at a certain time of day, how do they structure their morning if they have to leave for work or school?
- This is an important conversation to have especially with students who are parents! Mornings can be very hectic and children can unexpectedly affect leaving on time when they have to go to the bathroom or they have a spill. This is something that every parent experiences, so discuss this and talk about “appropriate expectations” for age and routine. What should they expect from their child? What should their child expect from them?
- Brainstorm how to make the mornings easier. Can they pack lunches and backpacks the night before? Can clothes be picked out, breakfast prepped, and items stored in the car?
- Have one parent education class on this topic and then encourage each parent to journal (or give them an “activity log” for this activity, see “It’s a Busy Time of Day” in this kit) to complete over one week. Parents should record what they did to make their daily routines smoother (pick one time of day, such as morning). Have them think about – what worked, what didn’t work, and be prepared to share at the next parent education class.
- **Reading Strategy:** Parents should help their child make connections when they read and they should make connections when they are reading for themselves! Parents can make connections to text (fiction and nonfiction) by stopping to check in and think about what they are reading. Encourage parents to make “stop signs” when they read something. For example, if reading an article, every few paragraphs or at the end of each page, they should mark “stop.” This will “clue” them to stop reading, think about what they just read and make a personal connection to it. We encourage them to do this with their children all of the time when we say, connect the story to your child: “Oh, the little girl in the story is wearing a red shirt. You are wearing a red shirt, too.” You can also use this reading strategy as a vocabulary strategy. Introduce parents to new words or discuss words with them that are in their readings and unfamiliar to them. If you teach them that the word presumptuous means to be pushy or bold, have them think of someone they know that is presumptuous. Then, the next time they hear the word, they might think of that person and connect it to the meaning. A simple chart for vocabulary instruction is:

Word	Meaning	Connection
Presumptuous	To be pushy and bold	Aunt Sally

Snack:

- Serve animal crackers. For a yummy dip, mix fruit topping like Cool Whip with strawberry yogurt to make pink dip!
- In addition, choose a variety of healthy snacks for all ages of the

	<p>playgroup. Model healthy snack choices and talk about options for different ages.</p>
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- 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.

It's a Busy Time of Day...

Time of Day:

Why is it challenging?

Do you think your child feels stress during this busy time? Why or Why not?

Changes I plan to make....

✓

✓

✓

✓

What worked...

What didn't work....

My new plan....



Parent and Child Together Time Ideas

Quack Quack, Maisy by Lucy Cousins

READ THE BOOK:

- ❖ Point to the pictures as you read this book. Make the animal noises and have fun! Ask your child if they know what the sheep says?
- ❖ Point to the first letter for each sound. Do you notice anything about this book? The noises are in alphabetical order (M and N share two pages and are flipped).
- ❖ Sing the letters in the book. Sing the alphabet for and with your child.

PAPER BAG HORSE HEAD:

- ❖ Create a horse's head with your child to bring to playgroup.
- ❖ Decorate a lunch size paper bag with crayons/markers. Add eyes, a nose and mouth.
- ❖ Cut pieces of yarn to make a horse's mane. Have your child help you spread the glue and place the "hair" on the horse.
- ❖ Your child will use this at playgroup, to "ride" a horse and "lead" a parade.

PATTERNS:

- ❖ It's fun to make patterns with your child. You may have done this activity at playgroup.
- ❖ Gather colored blocks or gather sets of different items, like books, cars, blocks, etc.
- ❖ First create patterns with the color blocks. Place a red, yellow, and blue block in a row. Do the same pattern for another row. Can your child help you create a third row?
- ❖ Older children can help you create more detailed patterns. For example, 1 book, 2 cars, 1 block - 1 book, 2 cars, 1 block



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:
 - Lunch Size Brown Paper Bag
 - Crayons/markers, yarn
 - Scissors, Glue
- Journal Activity Sheet



JOURNAL - *Quack Quack, Maisy* by Lucy Cousins

Do you think your child had a favorite animal or sound in this book? Why?

Do you have a special routine with your child? For example, do you cuddle in one spot when you read a bedtime story? Describe your routine? How did it get started?

Try singing this book to your child and then sing the alphabet. What was their reaction?

I'll write back to you here...

References

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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

Your Toddler's Language-Development Explosion from whattoexpect.com retrieved August 5, 2011 from <http://www.whattoexpect.com/toddler-development/toddler-language.aspx>

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



www.barbarabushfoundation.com