



## BARBARA BUSH FOUNDATION FOR FAMILY LITERACY

### 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!



## Books for Your Newborn...

*Book!* by Kristine O'Connell George

*Time for Bed* by Mem Fox

*Chunky Books - 4 pack Priddy Books*

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 - 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.



## Playgroup Map

### Newborn Books 2012

<p><b><i>Read the Book:</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents will bring home SIX books in the Raising Reader’s Newborn Collection!</li> <li>• The chunky books explore colors, animals, baby animals, and trucks. (They are also fun to stack, but more to come on that!)</li> <li>• <i>Book!</i> is the perfect size for a toddler’s hands and shows a toddler reading and exploring with a book.</li> <li>• Mem Fox’s book, <i>Time for Bed</i>, explores a bedtime theme with different animals and questions that will lull children to sleep.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Literacy Extensions:</i></b></p>	<p><i>Chunky Books</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents should point to the pictures in the Chunky books and name each picture. Most babies and toddlers love small books like this! Have fun stacking them and naming the colors of each book: purple, yellow, red and orange.</li> </ul> <p><i>Book!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What adventure can you go on with a book? Have each child pick a favorite book from the play area (or bring one from home). They then take their book on an adventure by walking around the child care center. What do they show the book? What do they say to the book? Parents can pay attention to where the child takes the book....perhaps this is a favorite or special area? This activity is repeated in the PACT Idea Section.</li> </ul> <p><i>Time for Bed</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After reading <i>Time for Bed</i>, ask parents if their baby or toddler has a favorite lullaby. Dim the lights and sing lullabies together. Provide each family with a small flashlight to create ‘stars’ on the ceiling.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Literacy Craft:</i></b></p>	<p><i>Chunky Books</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a “chunky” picture set using a favorite chunky book as an example. Cut a few pieces of cardboard to the size of your choice - 8 ½ x 12, 5 x 7, etc.</li> <li>• Decide on a theme: colors, animals, fruits, shapes, etc. Find pictures online, in magazines, or in coloring books. If possible, print the pictures on card stock and glue them to each side of the cardboard pieces.</li> <li>• Punch a hole in the upper left corner of each cardboard piece and run string or yarn through the holes, connect them, and tie them off. You can cover the yarn/string with duct tape.</li> <li>• It’s always more fun if the children can be part of the creativity, so try to choose pictures that the children can color before you glue them on to the cardboard.</li> </ul> <p><i>Book!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In this book, the child wears their book like a “hat.” Create paper hats by following these instructions:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lay one sheet of newspaper on a flat surface. Smooth it out with your hands to remove any creases. Fold the paper in half horizontally.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Fold each of the corners of the folded edge down. The newspaper should look like a triangle with 1 to 2 inches of excess paper remaining at the bottom edge.
- Grasp the excess paper at the opening of the bottom of your triangle. There will be two layers of paper. Separate the layers with your fingers and fold the layer facing you up so that it overlaps your triangular folds. Turn your “hat” over and repeat on the opposite side.
- Place one piece of tape on the inside of each side or seam of your hat to secure it from unfolding.
- Decorate the hat using markers/crayons and stickers.
- (ehow.com Krystal Wascher)

*Time for Bed*

- Make constellations with toddlers or preschoolers:
  - Have children make dots/circles with white chalk (or white paint using an ear swab) on black or blue construction paper.
  - Connect the dots to make constellations.
  - Depending on the age, you may make animal or object constellations. Let your child lead!
  - For older children, check out books on constellations to share.

***Parent Education:***

- Review the “General Reading Tips and Developmental Information” in this packet with parents. Many parents do not understand brain development in Newborns. You may want to search for articles on brain growth in the first year to share with parents. Try to incorporate articles that relate to the parent’s child. Readers engage with the text more if they have a connection to what they are reading.
- ***Reading Strategy:*** Teach parents how to survey new text by using a K/W/L chart (see sample in this kit). (1) Prior to sharing the article, ask parents what they know about the reading topic. List all of their ideas under the “K” section – “this is what I know.” (2) Ask them what they would like to learn. Give everyone a chance to share and brainstorm their ideas. List the ideas under the “W” section – “this is what I want to know.” (3) Read the article using a reading strategy of your choice (text marking, chunking, surveying, making connections. You might want to view other 2012 kits for ideas or search online for reading strategy ideas). Have parents list what they have learned under the “L” section – “this is what I learned.” As a whole group discuss the last section. (4) Now, ask parents to name one to two things they learned that they will apply while caring for their baby!
- Model reading “face to face.” Parents can hold their babies so they can see their expressions or prop up older babies and kneel in front of them. This allows parents to follow their child’s lead.
- Sing lullabies with parents. Model for them how to be silly while reading the books with patterns and rhythms (change their voice tone from loud to soft, roar to whisper and make facial expressions to show different emotions).
- Introduce families to “Lap Games” (many libraries offer story times for babies). Model singing rhymes with babies. Use the following rhyme and the rhymes from *Read to Your Bunny*.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Little Cow</b>  This little cow eats grass (count out cows on fingers)  This little cow eats hay  This little cow does nothing  But lie in the sun all day  Let's chase her, let's chase her,  Let's chase her away!  (run fingers up baby's arm and tickle gently under chin)</p>
<b>Snack:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose a variety of healthy snacks for all ages of the playgroup. Model healthy snack choices and talk about options for different ages.</li> <li>• Gather round – have a spot for everyone. Parents with newborns can be a part of snack time, too!</li> <li>• Simple snack ideas: cut up bananas, soft crackers and yogurt.</li> </ul>

## K/W/L Chart

K	W	L



## Parent and Child Together Time Ideas

### *Newborn Books 2012*

#### **READ THE BOOKS:**

- ❖ When you share these books with your baby, try reading them "face to face."
- ❖ Prop your child up and kneel by them, so you are face to face. Hold the book, point to the pictures, and talk with them about the book.
- ❖ Watch their expressions while you show them the book.
- ❖ Do you think they have a favorite page?



#### **BOOK ADVENTURES:**

- ❖ Does your child have a favorite book? Take the book on an adventure like the child in *Book!*
- ❖ Go through the house with "book." Where do they take the book? What do they show the book? Do you think they have favorite places to play?
- ❖ Gather favorite stuffed animals and toys. Create a circle time for the toys/animals and share the favorite "book." What does your child say when they read the book?



## **LAP GAMES:**

- ❖ Babies love "lap games": songs, rhymes, and finger plays that you play on your lap.
- ❖ Try these lap games:

### **This Little Cow**

This little cow eats grass (count out cows on fingers)

This little cow eats hay

This little cow does nothing

But lie in the sun all day

Let's chase her, let's chase her,

Let's chase her away!

(run fingers up baby's arm and tickle gently under chin)

### **Open Them, Shut Them**

Open them, shut them, open them, shut them, Give a little clap!  
Open them, shut them, open them, shut them, Lay them in your lap.

Creep them, creep them, slowly creep them, Right up to your chin!

Cover up your little eyes - And take a little peek!

Peek a Boo!

Creep them, creep them, slowly creep them, Right up to your nose.

Creep them, creep them, Right down to your toes!

("them" are your hands - suit actions to words on baby's body throughout the song)

### **Touch Game**

Touch your nose, touch your chin, (touch baby on each body part as named)

That's the way this game begins.

Touch your eyes, touch your knees,

Now pretend you feel a breeze. (Blow gently on baby's face.)

Touch your hair, touch one ear,

Touch your two red lips right here.

Touch your elbows where they bend

That's the way this touch game ends.



## This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your Baby and Toddler
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
  - Favorite Book from the Child Care Center or Home
- Journal Activity Sheet



## JOURNAL - *Newborn Books*

Which book in the Newborn collection was your favorite?

Do you think your newborn likes to be read to? If yes, does that surprise?

Try singing while you show your baby the books. What is their reaction?

I'll write back to you here...

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## Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics  
[www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org)

Baby Center  
[www.babycenter.com](http://www.babycenter.com)

Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy  
[www.barbarabushfoundation.com](http://www.barbarabushfoundation.com)

Everything Preschool – Early Childhood Education Made Easy [www.everythingpreschool.com](http://www.everythingpreschool.com)

Medline Plus  
[www.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.nlm.nih.gov)

Preschool Education  
[www.preschooleducation.com](http://www.preschooleducation.com)

Scholastic  
[www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com)

Songs for Teaching  
[www.songsforteaching.com](http://www.songsforteaching.com)

The Perpetual Preschool  
[www.perpetualpreschool.com](http://www.perpetualpreschool.com)

What To Expect  
[www.whattoexpect.com](http://www.whattoexpect.com)

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