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 – 4 pack
Priddy Books

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
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.
Literacy Explorer Kit

Who Hoo Are You? By Kate Endle

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 toddler 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 your toddler feel safe and loved.
✓ Reading helps build vocabulary and stimulates a child’s imagination. It also helps improve his/her communication skills.
✓ 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 15-Month-Old:
✓ Don’t be surprised if your toddler walks off while you are reading or wants to stand or sit next to you. (Since learning to walk, who wants to sit still?)
✓ Story time may end abruptly or last for only a few minutes. That’s okay – grab a few minutes to read when your toddler shows interest and keep your set reading time.
✓ Interactive books work best, touch and feel, turning dials, lift the flap, stories that move quickly.
✓ Let them read at their own pace, looking at pictures and asking questions for as long as they want to.
✓ Encourage play that allows them to use their imagination and creativity. Start acting out stories!
✓ Simple games are fun to play! Try puzzles and shape sorting.

Developmental Milestones You May Notice:
✓ Toddlers begin to understand that objects have purpose, a hairbrush is for brushing hair, a broom is for sweeping the floor.
✓ Language is developing – let your child know you are listening – make eye contact and talk back to your child even if you are not sure what he/she is saying.
✓ Be silly – they begin to realize when you are goofing around. They will laugh and giggle when you, fall down, eat off a plate like a doggy, do something unexpected.
# Playgroup Map

*Who Hoo Are You? by Kate Endle*

## Read the Book:
- There are many animal books for toddlers and many books with rhyming, descriptive text. What makes *Who Hoo Are You?* so special? Each animal is carefully designed to look colorful and full of texture. Read the back page of the book to learn about how author/illustrator Kate Endle creates her illustrations. Children will have a chance to create their own designs when they complete the watercolor craft in the Literacy Craft section.

## Literacy Extensions:
- In this book, each animal is carefully described with one simple statement, such as “I’m a perky playful puppy.” Have a conversation about “describing” words (adjectives) and about how everyone is unique. Have parents make descriptive statements about their child and ask older children to come up with one word to describe themselves.
- Do the parents notice anything about the descriptions in the book? Most descriptions use the first letter of the animal’s name: “tipped-over turtle” or “lazy lion.” Some use rhyming text, “chirpy birdy.”
- Play a naming game that requires describing words. For example, “My name is Pam, and I am playful.” Or, “My name is Julia, and I am joyful.” Encourage parents to not hold back on vocabulary words – maybe Julia is “jovial” and learns the meaning of a new word. (Making connections to words helps parent and child remember the meaning!)

## Literacy Craft:
- In the Literacy Extension section you discussed describing words and phrases and rhyming text with families. Now, have them make their child into an animal of their choice!
  - For this activity you will need: animal templates, heavy colored paper or white paper to color, crayons/markers, glue, scissors, and a picture of each child. (Enlarge the picture so that their face may be cut out into a “circle” and glued on to the animal.)
  - Let the families look at the animal templates. With their child, choose an animal that their child admires or likes to imitate. Maybe the child likes to “roar like a lion” and they choose the lion template.
  - Trace the animal onto the heavy paper and cut. Provide each parent with the enlarged picture of their child’s face. Parents should cut around their child’s face so it becomes a circle. Glue the “face circle” to the face area on the animal.
  - Now, encourage parents to think of describing words for the animal. The lion could be, “I’m Josie. I am soft, and I roar.” A bunny picture could state, “I’m Sophie, and I hop, hop, hop like a bunny!” Families can make/write statements on their “child/animal” or write one to two descriptive words.
- As described in the book, Kate Endle is a talented artist who uses different methods to create her artwork. This simple activity will allow older children to experience color and texture.
| Give each child a piece of heavy, watercolor paper, watercolors and paintbrush. Have them paint their paper with whatever colors they desire, patterns, etc. You might want to put some music on to inspire them! |
| Using animal templates have the children trace the animal onto their dried watercolor paper. |
| Let them decorate their watercolor animal and provide them with a variety of materials to do this, such as, fabric, buttons, feathers, tissue paper, etc. This is a good time to raid your craft cupboard and bring your miscellaneous craft items out! |

**Music & Movement:**
- Extend the book by singing these songs during circle time. (Songs from [www.everythingpreschool.com](http://www.everythingpreschool.com))

  **Special Me**
  Special, special, special me
  How I wonder what I'll be
  In this big world I can be
  Anything I want to be
  Special, special, special me
  How I wonder what I'll be
  (Tune “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”)

  **Me Complete**
  I have ten little fingers and ten little toes
  Two little arms and one little nose,
  One little mouth and two little ears,
  Two little eyes for smiles and tears,
  One little head and two little feet,
  One little chin, that's me complete

  **Stand Up and Turn Around**
  (Childs Name) stand up; (Childs Name) stand up.
  Turn around; touch the ground.

**Parent Education:**
- Every human being is unique and special. How do parents celebrate the uniqueness of their child? Do they celebrate their uniqueness? Do they have traditions that help them celebrate?
  - Have this conversation with parents and expand their mind on how someone can be unique. For example, sometimes parents are frustrated with a child that is s-l-o-w to do activities, such as gather their belongings, put on their shoes, get ready to leave the house. Are they slow or are they “methodical?” Perhaps their slowness will translate into a careful worker while they are learning to read and write.
  - Encourage parents to list their child’s “character traits” on the provided activity sheet. After they list some things that make their child unique, have them think about how they can celebrate their child. It’s easy to celebrate in simple ways, through positive comments, praise, smiles, and facial expressions that show they love their child and think they are wonderful!
**Reading Strategy:** List/Group/Label is a reading strategy that helps readers categorize information and look for commonalities. This strategy helps a reader see patterns, look for common ideas, and encourages them to organize information. Once a reader understands how to categorize information they can add new information and make new connections to the text. (1) Show parents how to List/Group/Label using a topic of their choice. You can follow the theme in this book or choose a topic that is of interest to them, such as, bedtime routines. (2) As a group “list” (brainstorm) ideas and suggestions about bedtime routines. (3) Study the list together and decide which items go together. “Group” them by marking them in sets with colored highlighters, or shapes (circles, squares, stars, etc.). (4) Have the parents study their groups and decide what each group should be called, then “label” them. This simple reading strategy is great for sorting through informational text.

**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.
Everyone is Special…

List the many ways your child is special…

How will you “celebrate” their uniqueness…?

How are you special? What are your talents…?
READ THE BOOK:

- You and your child will enjoy reading *Who Hoo Are You?* because you’ll like looking at the uniquely illustrated animals and listening to their descriptions.
- There are many ways to interact with this book. Read the simple sentences by moving your pointer finger from left to right. This helps show your child that we read text from left to right.
- Name the colors and shapes on the different pages. For example, “What colors do you see on the prancing pony? How many circles can you count on the pony’s stage?”

CELEBRATION POSTER:

- In your Parent Education class you might have discussed ways to describe your child and how your child is unique. List the many things about your child that you love on a piece of paper. For example:
  - Beautiful blue eyes,
  - Silly, giggly laugh,
  - Sweet Hugs,
  - Jumping steps, and so on...
- Next, take a large sheet of paper and glue a picture of your child in the center of it. Write all of the things you listed all over the paper (a “collage” of ideas) and present it to your child. You may want to write the ideas using different colored crayons or markers.
- Now, what does your child love about YOU? Help your child create a celebration poster that celebrates you and that your child can keep with them when you are not together.
SPECIAL SONGS:

You might have sung these songs at preschool:

**Special Me**
Special, special, special me
How I wonder what I'll be
In this big world I can be
Anything I want to be
Special, special, special me
How I wonder what I'll be
(Tune “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”)

**Me Complete**
I have ten little fingers and ten little toes
Two little arms and one little nose,
One little mouth and two little ears,
Two little eyes for smiles and tears,
One little head and two little feet,
One little chin, that's me complete

(These songs are from www.everythingpreschool.com)
This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your 15-Month-Old
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
  - Large sheet of paper
  - Picture of your child
  - Crayons/markers, scissors, glue
- Journal Activity Sheet
The illustrations in this book appeal to adults and children. Do you have a favorite picture?

Was it hard to think about how YOU are special? Do you celebrate your achievements, small and large? Why or why not?

Think about the past day, week, month, or year. List things that you have accomplished that you are proud of.
I'll write back to you here...
References

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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.whattoexpect.com