



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 has ideas for the general preschool age.

Happy Reading and Playing!



Who's in the Forest? by Phillis Gershator

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:

- ✓ 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 18 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 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, 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:

- ✓ Builds towers of two to four blocks. Imitates scribbling.
- ✓ Can feed themselves by using a cup and spoon.
- ✓ Points to familiar objects. May try to name them.
- ✓ Starts saying "my" as they develop ownership of people and objects.
- ✓ Language may explode at 18 months and they use a few common words
- ✓ Takes off some simple clothing items, mittens or socks.



Playgroup Map

Who's in the Forest? by Phillis Gershator

<p><i>Read the Book:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Who's in the Forest?</i> is a colorful book with each set of pages laying out a forest scene full of animals, trees, and forest life. • The book has a rhyming quality and is a “peek-a-boo” book. Each page has a circle cut out that shows the featured forest life. • You will want to read it a few times, so children can become familiar with the animal movements and sounds in the book.
<p><i>Literacy Extensions:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After you read the book once, read it a second time and have the families act out the actions described. For example, “Foxes on the prowl – creep, creep, creep.” • Can the families name other animals (not from the book)? What movement do those animals make? What sounds do they make? Families can make the movement and sound and see if others in the group can, “Name that animal!” • Ask the question, “Who’s at playgroup?” or “Who’s in the room?” Encourage children to name friends, objects, toys, etc
<p><i>Literacy Craft:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What’s in my World?” viewfinder! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use a piece of heavy paper like cardstock or poster board cut to 8 ½ x 11 size. Cut a circle in the middle of the paper, large enough that a child can hold it up to their face and look through the hole for a “viewfinder” (you are recreating the “peek-a-boo” element of the book). ○ Have the children decorate their viewfinder with markers, crayons, cut out pictures and/or use only material to match the pictures in the book. ○ If you want, create a template that says “My World” to paste across the top of the finder. ○ Have children go through the play area using their viewfinder, asking them, “What is in their world?” • Bookmarks! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cut wide strips of felt. Provide families with feathers, buttons, colored material (and older children with large needles and thread). ○ Study the pictures in the book and use the craft materials to decorate the strips of felt to create a book mark! Older children can stitch in whatever direction they would like with different colored thread to decorate their bookmark. • Lacing Cards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cut out large, favorite pictures from magazines or print pictures onto cardstock. ○ Glue the pictures onto cardboard and using a hole punch, punch holes around the edge of the cardboard.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide children with yarn or shoelaces and a large plastic sewing needle. Show them how to sew along the picture, moving the needle in and out of the holes. ○ Other easy lacing cards: Trace images (animals, shapes) onto foam board. Cut out and hole punch around the image. Your animal or shape is ready to be laced around!
<i>Music & Movement:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Put on some upbeat movement and encourage children to “march” throughout the room like the animals in the book. Call out “Elephant” and see if they can lumber like elephants. Call out “Snakes” and see if they can slither.
<i>Science:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many animals/creatures are featured in this book: birds, squirrels, foxes, bears and more. ● Have each family choose an animal to research. Start this activity during playgroup and have families finish it at home. (see PACT idea sheet) ● Gather several books on the animals featured in the book. Encourage families to read the books at home throughout the week. Parents should ask their children questions, such as, “Where does this animal sleep?” “What does it eat” “What do you think it feels like?” ● Have each family fill in the Animal Chart provided in the PACT idea section. ● At the next playgroup, have each family come “dressed” as their animal. You can expand this idea to have a party for the “forest” animals, have families share facts about their animals, bring in fabric/material that might feel like their animals, etc. For more ideas on this Science activity, read the Parent Education section.
<i>Parent Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents have great ideas for activities. Use the Science activity section to help parents realize their creativity. Describe to them the Science activity. Ask them, “how could you show what you and your child learned by reading about the animal?” The idea given in the Science section is the “forest animal” party with children dressed like their animal. ● Help them brainstorm and plan the next activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Could parents bring a snack to share that the animal might eat? Perhaps berries for bears? ○ Could parents bring objects that their animal gathers? Acorns for squirrels. ● <i>Reading Strategy:</i> In the PACT idea sheet, parents will add information to an animal chart. Talk with parents about strategies for reading charts and graphs. They should approach a chart/graph using the “Survey” method. Read the title and labels of the graph. Try to understand what type of information the graph is offering before trying to understand the meaning of the data/information. Discuss with them the different types of charts and graphs. For example, a pie chart or circle chart is usually used to show “pieces” of the whole information. Bar graphs and line graphs are usually used to compare and contrast data. They give the viewer a quick glance of the data and allow them to make judgments

	<p>quickly. A chart (as used in the Science activity) is a graphic organizer that allows the recording of information. Students can determine their own style for recording information on charts – the more engaged they are in their data gathering and note taking, the easier it will be to remember the new information.</p>
<p><i>Snack:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acorn Dough Nuts: Gather the following: round doughnut holes, crumbled toffee, peanut butter, and pretzels. Frost the top of the holes with peanut butter. Roll the peanut butter end in the crumbled toffee. Break a piece of pretzel to resemble a stem and stick it into the top of the hole. You now have an edible acorn! (This fun snack idea is featured on spoonful.com http://spoonful.com/recipes/acorn-dough-nuts. retrieved August 16, 2012) • 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! • Simple snack ideas: cut up bananas, soft crackers and yogurt.



Parent and Child Together Time Ideas

Who's in the Forest? by Phillis Gershator

READ THE BOOK:

- ❖ *Who's in the Forest?* is a book that is full of activities for you and your child!
- ❖ Read the book to your child and play a guessing game. What is the animal in the circle? What do you think the animal will be doing when we turn the page?
- ❖ Do you think your child has a favorite animal? Watch them while you read the book. Do they study one page longer than another page?

WHAT ANIMAL ARE YOU?:

- ❖ Does your child have a favorite animal in the book?
- ❖ Explore this animal with your child by reading other books about this bear, fox, squirrel....
- ❖ Prepare an animal costume to wear at playgroup. You can create an animal mask using a paper plate, crayons/markers, yarn, and material. Cut out holes for the eyes and help your child create the "head" of the animal.
- ❖ Ask your child what color the animal is. You don't have to create a full costume. If they are a bear, have them wear brown, etc.
- ❖ What does the animal eat? What noise does the animal make? Talk about this with your child, so that they can share this information at the next playgroup!

A SCIENTIFIC STUDY - ANIMAL CHART:

- ❖ Read the book(s) you brought home from play group about the animal you would like to study.
- ❖ Fill out the chart on the next page and bring it to playgroup.

Animal Chart - My Animal is..._____

Pictures of Animal...	My animal feels like...	My animal likes to eat...	My animal likes to...

What do we need to represent this animal at Playgroup?



This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your 18 Month Old
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
 - Books about the animal you are learning about
 - Animal Chart
- Journal Activity Sheet



JOURNAL - *Who's in the Forest?* by Phillis Gershator

What did you like about the book *Who's in the Forest?*

What do you think your child's favorite animal was? Why do you think that was their favorite animal?

You did an activity with a chart. Do you read charts and graphs for school or work?

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