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!
# 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

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<th>Newborn</th>
<th>9 months</th>
<th>2 years</th>
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<td><strong>Book!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Animals (My Little Carry Me Books)</strong></td>
<td><strong>I Can Help</strong></td>
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<td>Kristine O’Connell George</td>
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<td>David Hyde Costello</td>
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<td>Laura Leuck</td>
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<td><strong>Homer, the Library Cat</strong></td>
<td>Reeve Lindbergh</td>
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<td><strong>5 years</strong></td>
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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")
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 Six Month Old:
✓ Read aloud for a few minutes at a time. It’s okay to stop when your baby wants to stop reading.
✓ Board books with different, bright colors will be interesting to them. Choose books with different designs and patterns.
✓ Sing to your baby! They love to hear your voice rhyming a nursery rhyme or lullaby.
✓ Babies start to understand that pictures are objects. They will start to have favorite pictures, pages, and, as they approach 12 months, favorite books!
✓ Now is the time to start a routine for reading – try to find a set time to read every day, like before bed, nap, or bath. (You can still read whenever you want to!)

Developmental Milestones You May Notice:
✓ Begins to move items from hand to hand and uses a “raking” grasp.
✓ Enjoys looking at their image in a mirror and responds to different expressions.
✓ Explores with hands and mouth.
✓ Tries to get objects that are out of their reach.
✓ Practices until they understand how things work, so it’s important to do the same thing over and over and over again!
### Read the Book:

- **Baby Faces!** is not your typical book about “baby faces.” It is an interactive, lift the flap, and peek style book that is filled with colors and of course, babies!
- The book explores emotions (smiley, grumpy), personality (funny), and parts of a baby’s day (playing peek-a-boo, kissing, and sleeping).
- Read the story and have the children take turns lifting the flaps. Make sure everyone feels welcome and invite the children up to lift the flap by saying, “Josh, would you like a turn? Would you like to lift this flap?”

### Literacy Extensions:

- **Making Faces!**
  - Make different faces to baby – happy, silly sad, funny – be silly!
  - Babies will love to look in a mirror (see parent education section).
- Play Peek-a-Boo with baby. Have parents place their child on their lap face to face. Parents should play peek-a-boo on themselves first and then gently with their baby. Older babies and toddlers will catch on quickly and lift their hands to their face.
- Act out some of the book. Have parents do “kiss, kiss” with their baby or “noses” and touch noses. Can everyone pretend to be sleepy – yawn, close their eyes and then sing a lullaby? How can you all be funny? Make funny noises or do you have funny sunglasses that everyone could wear while reading the book?

### Literacy Craft:

- Create your own Lift the Flap with Baby!
  - Take a picture of each child – with whatever emotion they want to share. Print the pictures on heavy paper like cardstock. Have parents create a pattern sheet or use colored construction paper (see “Colors and Patterns” listed below). Place the paper over the picture of baby and tape or glue along the top, so that you can “lift the flap.”
  - Depending on the age of the child, parents may want to add to this project. Maybe the older child wants to wear a silly hat and replicate some of the ideas from the book.
  - Help parents look for a way to include “letters” with this project. Either by writing their child’s name on the flap or by naming an object in the picture.
- **Colors and Patterns!**
  - This book is filled with many different colors and patterns. Some pages are solid color, some striped, and some polka dotted. Provide parents with different color paper (or material), crayons, markers, glue, scissors and colored dot stickers.
  - Let them make their own patterns using these supplies. Younger children can be provided with one piece of construction paper.
(let them pick the color) and the colored dot stickers. Parents can help them place the stickers on the colored paper. Older children can cut patterns and glue different colors together or add colors using the crayons and markers.

- **A Poster of Baby!**
  - Look at the last page of the book *Baby Faces*. Parents can recreate this in two ways, (1) by cutting pictures out of magazines as circles, or (2) by taking pictures of their child in different moods or doing different things and cutting them as circles.
  - Glue the circles onto a long poster sheet. Have children help “decorate” the poster. Keep it simple using crayons. If possible, laminate the posters for families to take home with them.
  - Why should babies have all the fun? Babies and older children would love a poster of mom. Replicate the activity described above. This is a fun activity to do at a parent education class.

**Parent Education:**

- **Being silly does not come easy to all parents.** *Baby Faces* is a great book to teach parents how to be silly and transparent with their baby.
  - Give each parent a mirror. Have them make different faces, silly, happy, sad, angry, surprised.
  - It’s good for parents to look at their expressions as they experience different emotions – this is what their baby sees. Share this with them. (This idea is also featured in the Explorer Kit *Baby Faces* by Margaret Miller.)

- **Discuss the Developmental Milestones for this age, especially:**
  - Starting a routine around books. Right before bed is a great time to cuddle with a few books. Babies will come to expect reading as part of their bedtime routine. As they get older, don’t be surprised if they start to choose “favorite” books. You might want to ask parents if they think their child has a favorite book. Have a conversation around why they might have these favorites – what are the colors or patterns in the book? What are the objects or animals?

- **Reading Strategy:** Explore with parents the positive affects of music with babies and children. Gather articles on this topic: music while pregnant, singing to babies, toddlers, preschoolers, etc. (you may want to look for articles on the benefits of older children playing a musical instrument, too). Introduce the reading strategy “text marking.” This type of strategy really encourages the reader to remain engaged with the text. (1) Introduce text symbols. Here are some examples and readers might want to create their own:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>!</td>
<td>Wow, Interesting</td>
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<td>?</td>
<td>Need to ask a clarifying question</td>
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<td>??</td>
<td>Very confused</td>
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(2) Model this reading strategy with parents using the “read aloud” method. Choose an article to share with them. Tell them you are going to read the first few paragraphs out loud and “think out loud” too. As you read to them, start marking your text. For example, you might say:

- “Wow, I didn’t know that babies respond to a parent “singing” a book to them. I think I will try that.” and mark that piece of information with an exclamation point. OR
- “I like how they describe singing and finger plays. I would like to learn some; I want to make sure I ask the teacher about this.” And mark that piece of information with a --.

(3) Continue modeling this method and then have parents try a few paragraphs on their own. Then, have the parents share what they marked and discuss if they would use these symbols or create their own. Let them choose an article of their choice to take with them to practice text marking.

(4) It’s helpful to “text mark” the article you plan to share with them before the lesson.

- Six lap songs are provided in the PACT take home sheet. Sing these lap songs with families so they become familiar with holding baby on lap and signing these songs. Model by holding a baby doll or stuffed animal!
  - Babies love high pitched noises and singing at four months.
  - Lap songs are great to teach because children of all ages love to sing on their parent’s lap. As they get older, they will put a favorite toy or stuffed animal on their lap and sing the songs.
  - Discuss with parents opportunities to sing the songs: waiting for an appointment or in the grocery line, tub time, or driving in the car.
  - Provide each parent with the “Singing Log” in this kit and if possible, make music CDs for them to take home.

**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.
### “Record” Your Singing Time

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<th>When I sang...</th>
<th>What I sang...</th>
<th>How my child reacted</th>
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Parent and Child Together Time Ideas
Baby faces! DK Publishing

READ THE BOOK:

- *Baby Faces* is a book your baby will love. It shows babies doing different things and it is a lift the flap book.
- Read the book to your baby, showing them how to lift the flap.
- Play a game, ask “Who do you think is hiding behind the Funny Doggy? Do you think it will be a Funny Baby?”
- Point out the different colors and patterns on the pages, say “Oh, look at the stripes and trace them.” Trace the polka dots on the page with the funny dog.

HAVE FUN WITH COLORS!:

- Take the pieces of different colored construction paper and cut them into different shapes and sizes. (Do this with or without your child)
- Pour a small amount of white glue (or use a glue stick) onto a paper plate or piece of paper. Let your child dip the colored paper into the glue and place the paper on a large sheet of paper.
- Encourage them to dip and paste more colored paper however they want. Colors can overlap and cross each other.
- Allow their masterpiece to dry and then point to the different colors naming them.
LAP SONGS:

- Babies will enjoy these Lap Songs. Place your baby on your lap facing you.

**Round and Round the Garden**

Round and round the garden (circle baby’s hand with finger)
Like the teddy bear -
One step, two step, (walk fingers up baby’s arm)
And a tickle under there! (tickle under baby’s chin)
(You can repeat on each hand, and then do it on your baby’s tummy!)

**I Take My Little Hands**

I take my little hands and go clap, clap, clap (actions match your words)
I take my little hands and go clap, clap, clap
I take my little hands and go clap, clap, clap
Clap, Clap all day long.

(Repeat with other body parts...)
I take my little feet and go tap, tap, tap
I take my little knees and go bend, bend, bend
I take my little head and go nod, nod, nod.

**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.
Where is Thumbkin?

Where is Thumbkin, where is Thumbkin? (hold hands behind back)
Here I am, here I am. (bring thumbs out, one at a time)

How are you today, sir?
Very well, I thank you. (wiggle thumbs as they talk)
Run away, Run away. (put hands behind back, one at a time)

(Repeat with Pointer, Tall One, Ringo and Pinkie)

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)

Pat-a-cake

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, (clap hands together in time with the words)
Baker's man
Bake me a cake
As fast as you can!

Roll it, and pat it. (roll hands over each other, then pat)
And mark it with a B (draw "B" on one hand with finger)
And put it in the oven (hands out, putting cake in oven)
For Baby and Me! (Big HUG)
This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information for Your 6 Month Old.
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
  - Colored Construction Paper
  - Scissors, Glue
  - Large piece of poster paper
- Journal Activity Sheet
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JOURNAL – <em>Baby faces!</em> DK Publishing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you have other lift the flap books? Does your baby try to “lift” the flap?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does your baby have a funny expression that they make? What do they do? Do they know you are giggling about their expression?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What do you think is your child’s favorite flap to lift in this book?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
I'll write back to you here...
References

Armbruster, Lehr, and Osborn (2006), *A Child Becomes a Reader*, National Institute for Literacy, RMC Research Corporation, Portsmouth, NH


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

Springvale Public Library, *Baby Rhyme Time* (2011), Springvale, Maine

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.whatttoexpect.com