The Maine Family Literacy Initiative and Raising Readers are pleased to present “Literacy Explorer Kits”.

Each Literacy Explorer Kit provides theme activities for the 2010 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!

A Collaboration of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers PC 2011
Camping Day! by Patricia Lakin

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 Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers PC 2011
General Reading Tips & Developmental Information

General Reading Tips:
- Find a time to read every day. Bedtime is a great time to read - it will help your child relax before bed.
- Cuddle Up! This is the time to get cozy.
- Be Silly! Be Funny! Use Sound Effects!
- Read it - Again and Again and Again...Children love to read the same book more than once.
- Follow your child’s lead; let him/her set the pace.
- Talk about what you read: What do you think will happen next? What would you have done if you were that character?

For your Five Year Old:
- Help your child build vocabulary Have your child use his/her imagination to make up and tell you stories. Ask questions to help him/her expand the stories.
- Pause when you are reading to talk about the book.
- Look for patterns in words that are familiar. Words ending in “at” are very common: cat, pat, sat.
- Praise and support your child’s response, “That’s right. The sun looks like a circle.”

Developmental Milestones You May Notice:
- Hops, somersaults, swings, may be able to skip
- Can count ten or more objects and correctly names four colors. Prints some letters
- Recalls parts of a story, tells longer stories
- Copies triangle and other geometric patterns
- Likes to sing, dance, and act
- Sometimes demanding, sometimes eagerly cooperative

A Collaboration of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers
**Read the Book:**

- *Camping Day!* is an exciting adventure book! The characters are BUSY! They all work together to go camping. Think about their actions: Reading, Packing, Driving, Hiking, Camping, Cooking, Sleeping, and more Driving!
  - This makes it a fun book to act out and reenact.
  - Have each family pick an action to imitate. Have the other families guess what they are doing.
- It is a rhyming book – and a rhyming book with names – “Sam, Pam” and “Will, Jill” Emphasize the rhyming words while you read.
- It is a silly book – children will giggle when Jill “toots” and the characters “freeze” for the bees.
- The characters show a lot of different emotions, especially when they say “SCARY!”
  - Ask the children, “When do you think they are happy, excited, scared? How did you know? What were they doing in the picture?”

**Literacy Extensions:**

- Read the book once, and then play a rhyming game with names or easy rhyming objects, like ball, cat, etc. Start with a word (cat), have each family say a word that rhymes with it. When the families run out of words that rhyme with cat, choose a new word.
  - This game can be played with everyone: slapping their legs twice and then clapping their hands twice in a rhythm.
- There is a lot of movement in this book, and the characters “freeze” for the bees!
  - Play freeze dance. Play a favorite playgroup song or a fun, camping song. Pause the music and everyone freezes. Be silly – freeze in different poses!
- Let’s Go Camping!
  - Either before the families arrive or with the families (more challenging depending on size of group) set up a “tent” or “campsite”. You can do this with a tent or (more fun) be creative with supplies/furniture that is already in the room.
  - Gather round the campsite for story time and the other extension activities, like singing the song, “A Camping We Will Go” by Jean Warren (preschoolexpress.com)
    - A camping we will go
    - A camping we will go
    - Hi Ho to the forest we'll go
    - A camping we will go

  (Additional Verses: We'll pitch the tent right here... We'll sleep in a sleeping bag... We'll hike in a field of grass... We'll roast hotdogs by the fire...)

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**A Collaboration of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers**

**PC 2011**
### Literacy Craft:

- **Adventure Crafts!**
  - Children can create their own backpacks or “adventure” bags with different materials. You can purchase inexpensive bags to decorate with fabric markers and material.
  - Items can be purchased at a discount store: magnifying glasses, bug net, water bottle, rope, hat etc.
  - Walking sticks – collect walking sticks or discover them on an adventure walk.
  - If you want to decorate the sticks, paint them with outdoor craft paint.

### Science:

- **Shadow Puppets**
  - Shine a flashlight onto a wall or hanging sheet.
  - Show the children how to form a shadow puppet. First show your hand close up, so they can see the movement. Gently, shape their hand and have them practice opening and closing to the shape. This can take time, share with your parents that they will need to be patient while their child experiments with their hand movements.
  - Once they can hold the shape, flash the light towards their hand.
  - Rabbit Shadow Puppet:
    - Make a loose fist with your fingers.
    - Raise your index finger and middle finger in a peace sign to make bunny ears
    - Make a mouth for the rabbit with your folded fingers
  - Bird Shadow Puppet:
    - Hold your hands in front of your body, palms up.
    - Cross one wrist over the other and hook your thumbs together.
    - Point your thumbs up.
    - Make the bird fly by keeping your fingers together and flapping your “wings”.

- **Solar Oven Pizza Box (see Snack section to make S’mores)**
  - Ask your local Pizza House for a large pizza box (or small ones for each family).
  - Cut a square hole in the top cover of the pizza box leaving 2 inches around the square. Cover this hole with clear plastic wrap.
  - Line the inside of the box with aluminum foil.
  - Place your S’mores in the box and close the lid. Place in a warm area with full sun or outside on a summer day.
  - Remove carefully, the aluminum foil will be hot.
  - If families take their ovens home be sure to discuss items to cook (for food safety) and to watch children around foil (heat).

### Parent Education:

- Rhyming is an important part of children’s language development. It is fun and introduces children to new words and encourages them to begin to look for patterns with words. Talk with your parents about patterns in words. Just like they looked for letters in words when their children were...
younger, have them now look for common words with their children in the story. These can be words like – the, and, is – and words that are common in the story. For *Camping Day!* they can look for the character’s names and other words like “cried”.

- The characters are very animated in this story and some of the words get BIG. You may want to take a picture walk with the families before reading the story to them. Have the children make guesses about what is happening in the story.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Snack:</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| - Camp Dinner!  
  o Serve beans and cut up hotdogs.  
  o Smores! (Microwave OR Solar Oven – see Science section)  
    - Place a small piece of chocolate onto half of a graham cracker. Place half of a large marshmallow on the other half of the graham cracker.  
    - Microwave for 10 seconds, place together and EAT! Check the heat temperature of the S’more before serving. |
Parent and Child Together Time Ideas
Camping Day! by Patricia Lakin

READ THE BOOK:

- Ask to borrow Camping Day! Your child will want to read it more than once.
- After you read it a few times, your child will most likely want to read it to you. They may recognize a few words, and most likely they will read it to you by memory.
- It’s fun to change the story around and to make it silly! Look at a picture on one page and try to imagine what else could be happening.
- What do you notice about the book? It’s a rhyming book! Can you and your child think of other names or words that rhyme with “Sam, Pam” and “Will, Jill”?

NATURE WALK:

- Take a lunch size brown paper bag and decorate it using crayons.
- Go outside for a nature walk with your child. Point out:
  - The color of leaves and trees, any bugs you see!
  - Check out the sky – what do the clouds look like?
- Collect nature items as you walk (twigs, leaves, acorns, etc.) Place them in your nature bag.
- You can make a nest from your nature collection. Form clay or play dough into a ball. Stick your leaves and twigs into the clay and allow to dry.

FREEZE DANCE:

- Put on some music and DANCE!
- Pause the music and freeze in silly movements.
- Have the whole family join in!
SHADOW PUPPETS:

- Shine a flashlight onto a wall or hanging sheet
- Show your child how to form a shadow puppet. First show your hand close up, so they can see the movement. Gently, shape their hand and have them practice opening and closing to the shape. This can take time, be patient while your child experiments with his/her hand movements.
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  - Make the bird fly by keeping your fingers together and flapping your “wings”.

SING A SONG:

- You may have sung this song at playgroup, "A Camping We Will Go":
  
  A camping we will go
  A camping we will go
  Hi Ho to the forest we’ll go
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(Additional Verses: We’ll pitch the tent right here... We’ll sleep in a sleeping bag... We’ll hike in a field of grass... We’ll roast hotdogs by the fire...)

-Jean Warren, www.preschoolexpress.com
This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your Five Year Old
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
  - Lunch Size Brown Paper Bag
  - Clay or Play Dough
  - Flashlight
- Journal Activity Sheet
### JOURNAL - *Camping Day!* by Patricia Lakin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What did you like about the book <em>Camping Day!</em>? What do you think your child’s favorite part was?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which character do you think your child liked best? Sam, Pam, Will, or Jill? Ask your child and find out why...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What PACT activity did you do with your child? What went well? What didn’t go so well?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I'll write back to you here...
LITERACY EXPLORER KITS 2010

References

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


Your 4-Month-Old’s Development: Week 1 (n.d.), from babycenter.com retrieved August 4, 2011 from [http://www.babycenter.com/0_your-4-month-olds-development-week-1_1477216.bc#articlesection3](http://www.babycenter.com/0_your-4-month-olds-development-week-1_1477216.bc#articlesection3)

Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics
www.healthychildren.org

Baby Center
www.babycenter.com

Candlewick Press, Raising Readers
Publisher Activity Sheets for *A Visitor for Bear* by Bonny Becker and *Bob* by Tracey Campbell Pearson

Everything Preschool – Early Childhood Education Made Easy
www.everythingpreschool.com

Medline Plus
www.nlm.nih.gov

Scholastic
www.scholastic.com

Songs for Teaching
www.songsforteaching.com

The Perpetual Preschool
www.perpetualpreschool.com

What To Expect
www.whatttoexpect.com
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Happy Reading and Playing!

A Collaboration of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers
PC 2011
*Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney

This kit includes the following:

1. **General Reading Tips & Developmental Information**
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2. **Playgroup Map - Theme Related Activities**

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4. **Explorer Bag Information Sheet**
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A Collaboration of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers
PC 2011
General Reading Tips & Developmental Information

General Reading Tips:
✓ Find a time to read every day. Bedtime is a great time to read – it will help your child relax before bed.
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For your Five Year Old:
✓ Help your child build vocabulary Have your child use his/her imagination to make up and tell you stories. Ask questions to help him/her expand the stories.
✓ Pause when you are reading to talk about the book.
✓ Look for patterns in words that are familiar. Words ending in “at” are very common: cat, pat, sat.
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✓ Hops, somersaults, swings, may be able to skip
✓ Can count ten or more objects and correctly names four colors. Prints some letters
✓ Recalls parts of a story, tells longer stories
✓ Copies triangle and other geometric patterns
✓ Likes to sing, dance, and act
✓ Sometimes demanding, sometimes eagerly cooperative
**Read the Book:**

- Miss Rumphius is a favorite Maine book, and Barbara Cooney has an interesting connection to Maine. Read her story on Page 122 of *Books from Maine A Raising Readers Collection.*
- In this story, Alice as a little girl wants to go “to faraway places, and when I grow old, I too live beside the sea.”
- Ask the children, where they would like to go someday. Talk with families about the importance of talking about dreams and goals (see Parent Education section)

**Literacy Extensions:**

- Create a Passport!
  - Take blue construction paper, cut it to the size of a Passport. Staple folded paper inside to make a booklet. Have children decorate the front of the passport.
  - You may place their picture inside or have them make their own self portrait.
  - Use their Passport as they “travel” to different places. (Other rooms in the childcare center, the library, home, field trips, etc.)
  - You may also use their Passports to list books they read. “Stamp” their passports for each book they read.
- Time to Travel!
  - Have a multi-cultural celebration. Choose different countries to celebrate. Determine if you want to extend this over a few playgroups. If yes, choose one country for one playgroup. Be creative with the theme around, dress, food, activities, music, etc.
- For a simple travel activity, say hello in different languages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Hello</th>
<th>Pronounced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Hola</td>
<td>“Oh, la”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Bonjour</td>
<td>“Bohn-zhoor”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Ciao</td>
<td>“Chow”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Ni hao</td>
<td>“Nee how”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>Annyong</td>
<td>“Ahn-yohng”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii (state)</td>
<td>Aloha</td>
<td>“A low ha”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- To incorporate the “Passports”, set up language “stations”. Each time a child visits a language station and learns how to say hello in a different language, their passport is stamped.
- Sing “Round the World with Ways to Say Hello” by Hap Palmer (song sheet in PACT section)
### Science:
- There is an important statement in Miss Rumphius, “You must do something to make the world more beautiful.” Depending on your families, allowable time, and space, you may want to explore how to make and keep the world beautiful. Some simple ideas are:
  - Conversations about recycling and conservation. For example, discuss where paper comes from. How can we help save trees? Use a small amount of paper towels after you wash your hands at school. Collect construction paper scraps after craft time to use on another project. You will be amazed at how excited the children are to learn about caring for the environment.
  - Some schools and towns encourage “Service Learning”. Service Learning gives students (and families) an opportunity to learn about a topic while doing a service for the community. For example, learning about recycling and setting up recycling stations or discussing energy conservation and sharing ideas for conserving at school and home.
  - Cloud gazing – go outside on a day when the sky is filled with Cumulus Clouds (puffy or cotton like clouds)
    - Encourage families to look for shapes (animals, letters, objects, etc.) in the clouds. Model cloud gazing for them and share what you see.
    - Play a game calling out the shapes you see and see if other families can find/identify them. For example, “I see a dragon.” “I see the letter C.” “I see Winnie the Pooh!”

### Literacy Craft:
- Lupine Pots!
  - Paint small clay pots (can be found at discount stores) using colors from *Miss Rumphius*.
  - Plant seeds in the pots (Lupine or other kinds)
- Paint the Sky!
  - As a little girl, Alice paints the “skies” for her grandfather who is an artist.
  - Give each child a long sheet of paper. Provide them with blue and white paint. Have them paint the sky. If you have already gone “cloud gazing” (Science section), encourage them to be creative with their “clouds”.
  - Add to the cloud activity or do this as a separate craft: Create clouds with cotton balls. Children will love to tear and form the cotton into their “clouds”. Dip the cotton into white glue and paste to blue construction paper.
- Shell and Sand Jars!
  - Alice visits many places as an adult. One of her most memorable is a tropical island where she meets the Bapa Raja.
  - Give each child a small canning jar (or a jar you have recycled). Provide them with sand (regular or colored) and shells. (If families collect shells, encourage them to bring some from their personal collection to the playgroup)
Children layer the sand and shells in a pattern. Screw jar lid on tightly.
Encourage parents to collect sand and shells the next time they visit the beach to make memory jars. They can label the outside of the jar with the date or place they visited.

**Parent Education:**
- Children who talk about their dreams and goals are more likely to achieve them. The dreams/goals stay present and they begin to incorporate them into their home and school life.
- Encourage parents to ask their children what they dream about, where they would like to travel, what they want to do when they are “all grown up.”
- Parents may want to record their child’s answers, so that their child can read them at a future time.
- Encourage parents to make “Affirmation Collage Posters” about their dreams and goals. Explain to parents what affirmations are and what a collage is. If possible, complete (or start) this activity during a Parent Education Class.
  - You will need:
    - Magazines, small poster size paper, glitter, stickers, markers, colored pencils.
    - Parents create a poster that shows their interests, best parent skills, hopes, dreams. Encourage parents to think about what they LIKE about themselves.
    - Cut out items, such as words, phrases and pictures from magazines. (For example, “smart” “determined”) Collage the items on the poster paper and decorate using markers or colored pencils.
    - If possible, laminate the posters for the parents. Encourage them to post their collage where they can see it daily.

**Snack:**
- Tea Party with Coconut Milk!
  - In one of the last pictures of the story, The Lupine Lady has the children gathered in her living room. They are drinking from tea cups and eating cookies (chocolate chip? raisin?)
  - Share “tea” (coconut milk from the Bapa Raja, milk, juice or water) and cookies with families.
  - Make up stories of “faraway places”. 
Parent and Child Together Time Ideas

Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney

READ THE BOOK:

- Ask to borrow *Miss Rumphius* and read it 3-4 times over a week. What does your child notice each time you read it together? There is so much to talk about! (dreams, goals, planting flowers, traveling to faraway places)
- Ask your child what their favorite picture is? Why? Then, let them lead the conversation.
- Encourage them to ask YOU questions about the story.
- Share with your child dreams and goals you had when you were a child and dreams and goals you have now. Ask your child what their BIG dreams are.

CLOUD GAZING:

- Go outside on a day when the sky is filled with Cumulus Clouds (puffy or cotton like clouds)
- Look for shapes (animals, letters, objects etc.) in the clouds and share what you see.
- Play a game. Call out the shapes you see and have your child try to find them. For example, ”I see a dragon.” ”I see the letter C.” ”I see Winnie the Pooh!”
- Take turns calling out shapes.
### RECYCLING STATION:
- Talk with your child about how to make the world beautiful and what recycling means.
- Talk about ways you can recycle and start a recycle box or carton at your house or in your child’s room.
- Take a small to medium size box. Let your child decorate the box with stickers and crayons/markers.
- Place in your child’s room or a hallway - start recycling!
- You may want to visit your local recycle station to obtain a recycle carton. Encourage your child to ask questions during the visit about what they can and can not recycle.

### MEMORY JARS:
- You may have done this during playgroup by making “Shell and Sand Jars” to remember Alice’s visit to the Bapa Raja
- Take a small to medium size jar (one you recycle or a canning jar)
- Place objects from a place you have visited with your child, such as
  - The beach - sand and shells
  - Nature walk - rocks/pebbles, twigs
- Layer your “memories” in an interesting way. Label the outside of the jar with the name of the place and date you visited.

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A Collaboration of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers
PC 2011
SING A SONG:
“Round the World with Ways to Say Hello” by Hap Palmer

Hola, hola, (OH-lah) says hello in Spanish
Hejsan, hejsan, (HEY-sun) that’s the word in Swedish
Jambo, jambo, (JAHM-boh) says it in Swahili
‘Round and ’round the world we go with ways to say hello

Bonjour, bonjour, (bohn-zhoor) says hello in French
Privet, privet, (preev-YET) that’s the word in Russian
Ni hao, ni hao, (nee how) says it in Chinese
‘Round and ’round the world we go with ways to say hello

There are oh, so, many friendly ways
Every language has a word or phrase

Shalom, shalom, (sha-lome) says hello in Hebrew
Salaam, salaam in (sah-ahm) Arabic and Persian
Annyong , annyong, (ahn-yohng) says it in Korean
‘Round and ’round the world we go with ways to say hello

Konnichiwa, konnichiwa, (Ko-nee-chee-wa) says hello in Japanese
Sawubona, sawubona, (saw-oo-BOH-nah) that’s the word in Zulu
Prijatno, prijatno, (pree-yat-no) says it in Macedonian
‘Round and ’round the world we go with ways to say hello

There are oh, so, many friendly ways
Every language has a word or phrase

Namaste, namaste, (nah-MUS-stay) says hello in Hindi
Dzien dobry, dzien dobry, (JEEN-do-bri) that’s the word in Polish
Aloha, aloha, says it in Hawaiian
‘Round and ’round the world we go with ways to say hello

(songsforteaching.com 2011)
This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your Five Year Old
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
  - Small to Medium Size Box
  - Crayons/Markers, Stickers
  - Small to Medium Size Jar
- Journal Activity Sheet
JOURNAL - *Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney

What did you like about the book *Miss Rumphius*? What do you think your child’s favorite part was?

1. If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why?

2. What book (only one) would you take with you? Why?
What PACT activity did you do with your child? What went well? What didn’t go so well?

I’ll write back to you here...
LITERACY EXPLORER KITS 2010

References

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


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Resources

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www.healthychildren.org

Baby Center
www.babycenter.com

Candlewick Press, Raising Readers
Publisher Activity Sheets for *A Visitor for Bear* by Bonny Becker and *Bob* by Tracey Campbell Pearson

Everything Preschool – Early Childhood Education Made Easy
www.everythingpreschool.com

Medline Plus
www.nlm.nih.gov

Scholastic
www.scholastic.com

Songs for Teaching
www.songsforteaching.com

The Perpetual Preschool
www.perpetualpreschool.com

What To Expect
www.whatttoexpect.com
The Maine Family Literacy Initiative and Raising Readers are pleased to present “Literacy Explorer Kits”.

Each Literacy Explorer Kit provides theme activities for the 2010 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.
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Happy Reading and Playing!

A Collaboration of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers PC 2011
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 Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers PC 2011*
General Reading Tips & Developmental Information

General Reading Tips:
✓ Find a time to read every day. Bedtime is a great time to read – it will help your child relax before bed.
✓ Cuddle Up! This is the time to get cozy.
✓ Be Silly! Be Funny! Use Sound Effects!
✓ Read it – Again and Again and Again…Children love to read the same book more than once.
✓ Follow your child’s lead; let him/her set the pace.
✓ Talk about what you read: What do you think will happen next? What would you have done if you were that character?

For your Five Year Old:
✓ Help your child build vocabulary Have your child use his/her imagination to make up and tell you stories. Ask questions to help him/her expand the stories.
✓ Pause when you are reading to talk about the book.
✓ Look for patterns in words that are familiar. Words ending in “at” are very common: cat, pat, sat.
✓ Praise and support your child’s response, “That’s right. The sun looks like a circle.”

Developmental Milestones You May Notice:
✓ Hops, somersaults, swings, may be able to skip
✓ Can count ten or more objects and correctly names four colors. Prints some letters
✓ Recalls parts of a story, tells longer stories
✓ Copies triangle and other geometric patterns
✓ Likes to sing, dance, and act
✓ Sometimes demanding, sometimes eagerly cooperative
### Read the Book:
- Parts of *Dino Pets* reads like poetry with rhyming words and some parts are predictable.
- Read the book two times.
  - After you read it the first time, ask children what they notice about the words that are different colors and shapes. Listen to what the children say, and then explain to them that these words are describing one thing about the dinosaur. For example, the **BIGGEST** dino is an Argentinosaurus. (see Pg. 77 in *Books from Maine A Raising Readers Collection*
  - Read the book the second time, have the children look for the colored word and have them describe the dinosaur. Show them the word that (should) match part of their description.
  - Tell the children that a describing word is an adjective.
- On page 73 (from *Books from Maine, A Raising Readers Collection*), all of the dinosaurs come home to go to sleep. Can the children find the six dinosaurs?

### Literacy Extensions:
- Gather for story time singing this song:
  - **“The Dinosaur Song”**
    - The brontosaurus had a very long tail,
      - Very long tail, very long tail
      - The brontosaurus had a very long tail,
      - When the Dinosaurs roamed the Earth.
    
    The Tyrannosaurus Rex had great big teeth,
    - Great big teeth, great big teeth
    - The Tyrannosaurus Rex had great big teeth,
    - When the Dinosaurs roamed the Earth.
  - (Sing to the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus”)
- Play the game “I spy” with families.
  - Children will say, “I spy with my little eyes…”
  - Families choose one thing in the room for the other families to guess what it is
    - For example, for a red circle picture on the wall – “I spy with my little eyes something red that is a shape.”
    - Everyone guesses what the family “spied”
- Play games with Dinosaur Flashcards that you make during craft time. (see Literacy Craft section)
  - Show the picture and guess the name of the dinosaur or describe the dinosaur
  - Show the picture and act out the describing word. This makes for a great conversation: how do you show you are big, soft, small?
### Literacy Craft:
- **Dinosaur Flashcards:**
  - Give each family a half sheet of white cardstock. On one side of the cardstock draw/color a picture of one of the dinosaurs from the book. On the other side write (1) the name of the dinosaur and (2) the describing word.
  - For example:
    - Tyrannosaurus Rex
      - Scariest
  - Me-o-saurus – you will need large sheets of paper, markers/crayons, and other art material from your current supplies.
    - Have parents trace around their child on a large sheet of paper.
    - What would they look like if they were a dinosaur?
    - Print the Dinosaur color page image for PACT sheet.

### Science:
- **How big were dinosaurs?**
  - Choose one dinosaur and measure its length. Have children/families use yardsticks or measuring tapes and mark a starting and end point. Or lay string the length of the dinosaur.
  - How many children are as long as the dinosaur? Have children lie head to toe from the start to end point to see how many equal its length.
  - Tyrannosaurus Rex’s Mouth:
    - Using tape or string, make a circle that is ten feet in diameter
    - Hide large Dino teeth in different places around the room (you can use gift wrap or paper towel tubes). Have children find them and bring them back to the circle.
    - Tape the teeth around the circle and explain that the Tyrannosaurus Rex’s mouth was this width. See how many children fit inside the circle.

### Parent Education:
- **Playing “I spy…” with children is a great way to keep them occupied while waiting for a doctor visit.**
- It also provides families with the opportunity to explore a part of “print awareness.” Children can look for letters or words while playing the game. They can describe what the word looks like – for example – cat. “This word has three letters and two almost look like circles.”
- **Imagination – children love to make up stories and fantasies. Asking the question, “If you could have any pet, what kind would you want?” is a great car ride conversation. What else could parents ask: what the animal eats, where they would sleep, what would they need for exercise?**

### Snack:
- **Tyrannosaurus Rex Teeth:**
  - Peel a banana. Cut the banana in half lengthwise to make two “teeth”. Melt butterscotch and crumble graham crackers.
  - Dip the “teeth” into the butterscotch and graham crackers.
Parent and Child Together Time Ideas
_Dino Pets_ by Lynn Plourde

**READ THE BOOK:**
- Ask to borrow _Dino Pets_! Your child will want to read it more than once.
- Show your child the “Dino Facts” pages at the end of the story. Practice sounding out the dinosaur names. Children love dinosaurs! You will be surprised how much they want to learn the names of each dinosaur.
- As you read about each dinosaur, see if your child can act out the description: biggest, fastest, longest, etc.
- Ask your child questions about the story. “Where do you think the dinosaurs go after the little boy loses them?” “Why is this dinosaur the scariest?” “Do you think the dinosaur feels bad that he scared them?” (see picture on page 67 in _Books from Maine A Raising Readers Collection_)

**DINOSAUR CRAFTS:**

**NECKLACE**
- You will need: thick paper, pasta pieces, glue, crayons/markers
- Have your child glue the pasta onto the paper to make their own Dinosaur skeleton.

**DINOSAUR COLOR PAGE**

**DINOSAUR EGG HUNT:**
- Hide colored eggs throughout one room or your house.
- Have your child go on a dinosaur egg hunt.
- You can also do this with small, plastic dinosaurs (Discount stores usually have bags of dinosaurs in party aisle)

A Collaboration of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers
PC 2011
SING A SONG:

“The Dinosaur Song”

The brontosaurus had a very long tail,
Very long tail, very long tail
The brontosaurus had a very long tail,
When the Dinosaurs roamed the Earth.

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Great big teeth, great big teeth
The Tyrannosaurus Rex had great big teeth,
When the Dinosaurs roamed the Earth.

(Sing to the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus“)
This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

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- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
  - Thick paper (cardstock), pasta pieces, crayons, and glue
  - Dinosaur color sheet
  - Colored eggs and/or small plastic dinosaurs
- Journal Activity Sheet
### JOURNAL - *Dino Pets* by Lynn Plourde

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<tr>
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LITERACY EXPLORER KITS 2010

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Your 4-Month-Old’s Development: Week 1 (n.d.), from babycenter.com retrieved August 4, 2011 from http://www.babycenter.com/0_your-4-month-olds-development-week-1_1477216.bc#articlesection3

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PC 2011
# BOOK LIST 2010

Celebrating 10 years and almost 1.5 million books given to children in Maine. For more information call 1-800-397-3263 or visit www.raisingreaders.org

## Newborn
- **Read To Your Bunny**
  - *Very First Library*
  - by Rosemary Wells
- **Baby’s World?**
  - by Margaret Miller
  - DK Publishing
- **A Red Train**
  - by Tracey Campbell Pearson
  - Boxcar Books
- **A Red Train**
  - Boxcar Books

## 2 months
- **Little Scholastic Colors**
  - by Stella Blackstone
  - Scholastic Inc
- **Little Scholastic Colors**
  - by Stella Blackstone
  - Scholastic Inc
- **Baby Faces**
  - by Margaret Miller
  - by Margaret Miller
- **Baby Faces**
  - by Margaret Miller
  - by Margaret Miller

## 4 months
- **Rainbow Colors**
  - by Danna Smith
  - DK Publishing
- **Rainbow Colors**
  - by Danna Smith
  - DK Publishing
- **If You’re Happy and You Know It!**
  - by Jane Cabrera
  - Scholastic Inc
- **If You’re Happy and You Know It!**
  - by Jane Cabrera
  - Scholastic Inc

## 6 months
- **If You’re Happy and You Know It!**
  - by Jane Cabrera
  - Scholastic Inc
- **Two at the Zoo**
  - by Danna Smith
  - Scholastic Inc
- **Two at the Zoo**
  - by Danna Smith
  - Scholastic Inc
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  - Scholastic Inc

## 9 months
- **Peek-a-Boo WHO?**
  - by Simms Taback
  - Scholastic Inc
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  - by Simms Taback
  - Scholastic Inc
- **If You’re Happy and You Know It!**
  - by Jane Cabrera
  - Scholastic Inc
- **If You’re Happy and You Know It!**
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## 12 months
- **Walk with Me!**
  - by Stella Blackstone
  - Scholastic Inc
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  - Scholastic Inc
- **If You’re Happy and You Know It!**
  - by Jane Cabrera
  - Scholastic Inc
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  - Scholastic Inc

## 15 months
- **Two at the Zoo**
  - by Danna Smith
  - Scholastic Inc
- **Two at the Zoo**
  - by Danna Smith
  - Scholastic Inc
- **A Visitor for Bear**
  - by Bonny Becker
  - Scholastic Inc
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## 18 months
- **A Visitor for Bear**
  - by Bonny Becker
  - Scholastic Inc
- **A Visitor for Bear**
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  - Scholastic Inc
- **Books From Maine: A Raising Readers Collection**
  - by Bonny Becker
  - Scholastic Inc
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  - Scholastic Inc

## 2 years
- **Little Blue Truck**
  - by Alice Schertle
  - Scholastic Inc
- **Little Blue Truck**
  - by Alice Schertle
  - Scholastic Inc
- **Bob**
  - by Tracey Campbell Pearson
  - Scholastic Inc
- **Bob**
  - by Tracey Campbell Pearson
  - Scholastic Inc

## 3 years
- **A Red Train**
  - by Tracey Campbell Pearson
  - Scholastic Inc
- **A Red Train**
  - by Tracey Campbell Pearson
  - Scholastic Inc
- **A Visitor for Bear**
  - by Bonny Becker
  - Scholastic Inc
- **A Visitor for Bear**
  - by Bonny Becker
  - Scholastic Inc

## 4 years
- **Books From Maine: A Raising Readers Collection**
  - by Bonny Becker
  - Scholastic Inc
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  - Scholastic Inc
- **Two at the Zoo**
  - by Danna Smith
  - Scholastic Inc
- **Two at the Zoo**
  - by Danna Smith
  - Scholastic Inc

## 5 years
- **Two at the Zoo**
  - by Danna Smith
  - Scholastic Inc
- **Two at the Zoo**
  - by Danna Smith
  - Scholastic Inc
- **Books From Maine: A Raising Readers Collection**
  - by Bonny Becker
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- **Books From Maine: A Raising Readers Collection**
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Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey

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✓ Help your child build vocabulary Have your child use his/her imagination to make up and tell you stories. Ask questions to help him/her expand the stories.
✓ Pause when you are reading to talk about the book.
✓ Look for patterns in words that are familiar. Words ending in “at” are very common: cat, pat, sat.
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✓ Copies triangle and other geometric patterns
✓ Likes to sing, dance, and act
✓ Sometimes demanding, sometimes eagerly cooperative

A Collaboration of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers
**Read the Book:**
- *Blueberries for Sal* is a great story for Maine kids – many of them go berry picking throughout the summer.
- There are a lot of interesting noises in *Blueberries for Sal*. For example, “Little Sal picked three berries and dropped them in her little tin pail...kuplink, kuplank, kuplunk.” Ask the children what other “interesting” noises they notice. You can make other silly noises after you read the book.
- See if the children notice that Little Sal is always picking “three” blueberries. There are different opportunities to count throughout the story.

**Literacy Extensions:**
- Is there a berry farm by you? Take families berry picking and use the berries to bake something together (see “Snack” section)
- Gone Blueberry Pickin’ – Math Game (scholastic.com 2011)
  - Line up several small pails or baskets and have dried beans painted blue to look like blueberries.
  - Label the front of each pail with a numeral (for younger children) or a number sentence such as $3 + 4 = ___$ (for older children).
  - Have parent and child work together to fill the pails with the correct number of blueberries.
  - Send families home with a couple of pails, number sentence cards, and “blueberries”.
- Let’s Go Hiking!
  - Hiking is an inexpensive (many times free) activity that families can do together. Talk about different local hikes they could do as a family.
  - Do you have a hiking trail in your town? Visit with families.
  - Have fun with trail markers. Explain to parents that many trails are marked with paint marks or “cairns” – a mound of stones. See Cairn picture last page of kit. (look beyond the cairn and you can see a blue paint mark that also marks the trail). Print for families and share during story time.
  - You can make an indoor or outdoor trail for families. Use colored paper, post its, and building blocks to design your trail. Preschoolers will love to help design a trail for their parents to travel through with them!

**Literacy Craft:**
- Bear Puppets!
  - You will need a lunch size brown bag, construction paper, googly eyes, and crayons/markers.
  - Cut a circle for the bear’s head and glue to the closed end of the bag. Cut a small circle and then cut it in half. These are the bear’s ears. Using crayons or markers decorate the bear’s face.
- Open the bag – you have a bear puppet. Use a second bag to create a “Little Sal”. Children can act out the story while listening.

**Berry Picking Basket**
- Find a basket to decorate – cut the top off of a milk carton, ask your local grocer or farmer for small green berry baskets, or check at your local discount store.
- Decorate the baskets with crayons/markers, stickers, glitter, etc.
- Attach ribbon or a strip of cardstock to the top to form a handle.
- Model imaginary play with parents.

**Science:**
- Bears Hibernate – have a conversation about what that means. Ask the children how they get ready for winter and what cold weather means to them? (coats, mittens, snowmen, cocoa, etc.)

**Bear Cave!**
- Drape a blanket over a table or two chairs.
- Talk about how bears hibernate.
- Have children bring a stuffed bear from home (or have bears available, small stuffed animals can be found at discount stores).
- Have them sing the song from the “Parent and Child Together Time” idea sheet while the bears “go to sleep”.
- This helps families become familiar with the song from the take home PACT sheet.
- This idea also listed with *A Visitor for Bear*.

- Host a “Hibernation Party”!
  - Families come to the playgroup in pajamas (bringing a stuffed bear if they would like)
  - Make “dens” out of pillows and blankets.
  - Make sure every bear receives an award.

**Parent Education:**
- This is a great story for math: counting in the story, and measuring - make something with blueberries.
- Make connections for parents – model asking questions about the story:
  - How do you think Little Sal’s mother felt when she discovered a bear instead of her child following her? (Repeat with Little Bear’s mother.)
  - How do you think Little Bear felt? (Repeat with Little Sal.)
  - How would you feel if you discovered you were following a bear around instead of the person taking care of you? How do you think the bear would react?

**Snack:**
- Blueberry Pancakes!
  - Have children/families help measure ingredients for pancakes.
  - Ask children, “What is a tremendous amount of blueberries?” Add a “tremendous” amount.
  - This is a great activity that includes numeracy and parent education. Talk with families about measuring the ingredients and counting as you stir the pancake mix.
Parent and Child Together Time Ideas  
*Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey

**READ THE BOOK:**
- Ask to borrow *Blueberries for Sal*. Your child will want to read it more than once.
- Count with your child while you read the story. How many berries does Sal put in the bucket?
- What noises do Sal and Little Bear make while hunting for blueberries and while eating blueberries? Make the noises.
- What other silly noises can you and your child make?

**A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT:**
- What is a tremendous amount? Ask your child what they think it is?
- Practice measuring with your child. Take out different size containers: measuring cups, bowls, etc. Measure with different items, like water, beans, building blocks.
- Create a “measuring station”. Ask:
  - “How many ______ (beans, building blocks) do you think will fit in this bowl? Is this a small or tremendous amount”?
  - Count how many cups of water fill a bowl or pitcher.
- Be creative - ask your child what they want to measure.

**COFFEE BEAR:**
- You will need: glue, water, ground coffee, googly eyes, and heavy paper like cardstock.
- Mix coffee grounds with glue. You may need to add a little water to be able to “paint” the mixture.
- Have your child paint a bear on the paper. Add the googly eyes.
SING A SONG:

Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn around
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground
Teddy bear, teddy bear, reach up high
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the sky
Teddy bear, teddy bear, bend down low
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch your toes
Teddy bear, teddy bear, go upstairs
Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn out the light
Teddy bear, teddy bear, say goodnight
This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your Five Year Old
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
  - Measuring supplies if needed (containers, beans)
  - White glue, coffee grounds, googly eyes, cardstock
- Journal Activity Sheet

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Cairn – Acadia National Park – Summer 2011

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www.whattoexpect.com
The Maine Family Literacy Initiative and Raising Readers are pleased to present “Literacy Explorer Kits”.

Each Literacy Explorer Kit provides theme activities for the 2010 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!
Little Beaver and The Echo by Amy MacDonald

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 Maine Family Literacy Initiative
& Raising Readers
PC 2011
General Reading Tips & Developmental Information

General Reading Tips:

✓ Find a time to read every day. Bedtime is a great time to read – it will help your child relax before bed.
✓ Cuddle Up! This is the time to get cozy.
✓ Be Silly! Be Funny! Use Sound Effects!
✓ Read it – Again and Again and Again…Children love to read the same book more than once.
✓ Follow your child’s lead; let him/her set the pace.
✓ Talk about what you read: What do you think will happen next? What would you have done if you were that character?

For your Five Year Old:

✓ Help your child build vocabulary Have your child use his/her imagination to make up and tell you stories. Ask questions to help him/her expand the stories.
✓ Pause when you are reading to talk about the book.
✓ Look for patterns in words that are familiar. Words ending in “at” are very common: cat, pat, sat.
✓ Praise and support your child’s response, “That’s right. The sun looks like a circle.”

Developmental Milestones You May Notice:

✓ Hops, somersaults, swings, may be able to skip
✓ Can count ten or more objects and correctly names four colors. Prints some letters
✓ Recalls parts of a story, tells longer stories
✓ Copies triangle and other geometric patterns
✓ Likes to sing, dance, and act
✓ Sometimes demanding, sometimes eagerly cooperative
**Read the Book:**
- *Little Beaver and The Echo* is a beautifully illustrated book that explores nature and friendship. You may want to do the activities listed in the “Parent Education” section before reading it at story time.
- Pause while reading the story to give families the time to think about the echo.
- Ask children questions, such as, “Why is Little Beaver sad? What do you do when you are sad? How did Little Beaver meet new friends?”
- For this book you can explore science, nature, and friendship. The Literacy Craft is a Friendship Quilt, so you may want to talk about Little Beaver’s friends after you read the story.

**Literacy Extensions:**
- Friendship Song:
  - Have the children (or families) sit in a circle. Call a child's name and roll the ball to that child.
  - Then, call out another child's name and have them roll the ball to that child.
  - As the ball rolls to the next child, everyone sings, “I have a good friend, a good friend, a good friend, I have a good friend and their name is _________ (child's name).”

**Literacy Craft:**
- Friendship Quilt:
  - You will need: construction paper, glitter, glue, paint, crayons/markers, other art supplies from your closet.
  - Give each family a piece of construction paper and let them decorate it any way that they want. Connect all of the pieces (tape on the back to connect) to make a Friendship Quilt.
  - Hang the quilt in a visible place, the childcare center, adult’s school, or the place you meet (library?)
  - At the end of the year, cut apart the quilt and return everyone’s square.

**Science:**
- Field trip!
  - Take a nature field trip with the families - visit a source of water: pond, lake or stream.
  - Encourage families to sit quietly and observe nature. Do they hear the birds singing? Are there animals by the water?
  - Have families make a “Pond Viewer”. (ehow.com Shelly Frost) They can use this on the field trip and take their viewer home with them to use at other water sites. Remind parents that children should always be supervised while using their viewer.
  - Directions for Pond Viewer:
    - Use a coffee can or other metal can as the base of the viewer. Remove both ends of the can, so students can see
down through it into the water.

- Place pieces of tape around the cut edges to prevent young children from cutting themselves. Use a piece of plastic wrap to create a “lens” on the viewer. Stretch it tightly over one end ensuring that it is smooth.
- With help from a partner, place a rubber band around the rim to hold the plastic wrap in place. Once it is secure, place a few layers of duct tape around the edge of the plastic wrap to make it waterproof.
- Place the end of the viewer covered in plastic wrap into the pond. This allows you to see under the water without sticking your face into it. Wearing rubber boots allows you to step into the water to get a closer look.
- Depending on the age of the children, have them draw what they see in the water.

**Parent Education:**

- The author, Amy MacDonald, wrote this story to answer her son’s question about what an echo is. Share this story with parents – it is on Page 80 of the *Books from Maine A Raising Readers Collection*.
- Children ask questions to try to understand their world. It can be exhausting to a parent to listen to the questions and try to answer all of them.
- In whattoexpect.com, under toddler questions it suggests the following:
  - “What can you do if the endless cycle of "whys" starts to fray your nerves? Try turning the question around on your child. Ask him why *he* thinks the sky might be blue, or why *he* thinks you don't want him to eat an ice-cream cone before dinner. Curious children who love asking questions might also love coming up with answers. It may help him learn to think about things differently, from another perspective — but don't push it if he seems upset that you aren't giving him an answer.” (Heidi Murkoff, 2011)
- This makes for a great topic for a parent education class!

**Snack:**

- Make a Beaver Dam!
  - On a plate, place a small amount of Peanut Butter (check for peanut allergies)
  - Give children thin, pretzel sticks.
  - Have them create a Beaver Dam by placing their “sticks” in the Peanut Butter
- Friendship Fruit Salad:
  - Put the names of fruit salad ingredients (bananas, watermelon, blueberries) on different pieces of paper.
  - Have each family select one piece of paper and bring the fruit to playgroup.
  - Mix the fruits together and you have Friendship Fruit Salad.
  - Supply the fruit if you feel your families do not have the funds to purchase them. The family draws the piece of paper and that is the fruit they prepare for the fruit salad.
Parent and Child Together Time Ideas
Little Beaver and The Echo by Amy MacDonald

READ THE BOOK:
- Ask to borrow Little Beaver and The Echo.
- This book explains what an echo is and talks about friendship.
- Read the book a few times with your child. Ask your child if they want to be the echo for those parts in the story.
- This is a great book to talk about feelings with your child. Ask your child – “Why is Little Beaver sad?” Who are Little Beaver’s friends?” Talk about their friends at school or their playgroups.

FRIENDSHIP WREATH:
- Trace your child’s hand and your hand onto heavy construction paper or foam paper.
- Cut a circle out of heavy card stock, and cut a circle in the middle of it - to make a donut shape (wreath)
- Place your hands around the circle first with your fingers pointing out. The “wrist” part of your hand should be on the inner edge of the “donut hole”. Place your child’s hands around the circle. It works best if you place your child’s hands slightly in between your hands.
- You may need to move the “hands” around to fit them on the wreath shape in a way you want. Once you like the way your wreath looks, glue the hands in place.
- Tie a ribbon around the wreath and hang it on a wall or on a door. Be sure to the write the date on the back of the wreath - then you’ll always know how old your child was when you traced their hand!

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OBSERVE NATURE AT YOUR HOUSE OR THE PARK:

- Find a quiet place to sit with your child in your yard or at a park.
- Sit quietly (play the game “who can be quiet the longest…”)
- What do you observe while sitting quietly? Ask your child:
  - What do they hear...birds singing?
  - What do they see...a squirrel?
  - What do they smell...grass, a flower?
- Use your imagination - make up a story about where the little bird is flying or what the squirrel is doing (getting ready for winter?)
This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your Five Year Old
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
  - Cardstock and construction paper
  - Glue
  - Ribbon
- Journal Activity Sheet

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**JOURNAL - *Little Beaver and The Echo* by Amy MacDonald**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What did you like about the book <em>Little Beaver and The Echo</em>? What do you think your child’s favorite part was?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What is your child’s favorite question or topic to ask questions about? Why do you think that is?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What PACT activity did you do with your child? What went well? What didn’t go so well?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I’ll write back to you here...
LITERACY EXPLORER KITS 2010

References

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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

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Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics
www.healthychildren.org

Baby Center
www.babycenter.com

Candlewick Press, Raising Readers
Publisher Activity Sheets for *A Visitor for Bear* by Bonny Becker and *Bob* by Tracey Campbell Pearson

Everything Preschool – Early Childhood Education Made Easy
www.everythingpreschool.com

Medline Plus
www.nlm.nih.gov

Scholastic
www.scholastic.com

Songs for Teaching
www.songsforteaching.com

The Perpetual Preschool
www.perpetualpreschool.com

What To Expect
www.whatttoexpect.com