The Maine Family Literacy Initiative and Raising Readers are pleased to present the 2011 “Literacy Explorer Kits”

Each Literacy Explorer Kit provides theme activities for the 2011 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
Pamela Cote 2012
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newborn</th>
<th>9 months</th>
<th>2 years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baby Bear's Books</td>
<td>Peek-a-Boo What?</td>
<td>Pouch!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Sweet</td>
<td>Begin Smart</td>
<td>David Ezra Stein</td>
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<tr>
<td>What Does Baby See?</td>
<td>Vroom Vroom Maisy</td>
<td>Lucy Cousins</td>
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<td>Begin Smart</td>
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<td>2 months</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>3 years</td>
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<td>Look at That!</td>
<td>Look at You!</td>
<td>The Seals on the Bus</td>
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<td>Guido Van Genechten</td>
<td>Kathy Henderson</td>
<td>Lenny Hort</td>
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<td>4 months</td>
<td>15 months</td>
<td>4 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Love Colors</td>
<td>Knees and Toes</td>
<td>Kiss the Cow!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Miller</td>
<td>Rookie Toddler</td>
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<td>6 months</td>
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<td>All About Me</td>
<td>Meeow and the Little Chairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>DK Publishing</td>
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<td>A Treasury of Tales from Maine</td>
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<td>Maine</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”)

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& Raising Readers
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General Reading Tips & Developmental Information

General Reading Tips:
✓ Read to your baby 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 baby feel safe and loved.
✓ Reading helps build vocabulary and stimulates a child's imagination. It also helps improve his/her communication skills.
✓ Babies love to hear singing, so look for books with rhythm and nursery rhymes. 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 12 Month Old:
✓ Babies start to understand that pictures are objects. He/she will start to have favorite pictures, pages, and as they approach 12 months favorite books!
✓ Encourage your baby to hold the book and he/she will start "helping" you turn the pages by the time he/she is 12 months old! He/she will flip many pages at the same time.
✓ Don’t worry about reading the story perfectly. Stop and ask questions or point out pictures.
✓ Babies love repetition, so don’t be afraid to keep reading the same book over and over again.
✓ Help your baby build his/her vocabulary by reading and naming people and objects in his/her environment.

Developmental Milestones You May Notice:
✓ Baby is pulling him/herself up and begins to take steps.
✓ Begins to test how you respond to their actions and cries.
✓ Understands several words and simple commands. Waves bye.
✓ Begins to develop attachment and affection for certain objects.
✓ Tries to imitate animal sounds - loves books that show animals and says the noise they make.
### Read the Book:
- *Look at You! A Baby Body Book* is not just a book about baby’s body parts! It is a book that explores their day, world, activities, emotions, and many more things!
- Read the book before story time and think about the different activities that take place throughout the story. Here are some possible themes: Body parts, families, getting dressed, movement, senses, bath and bedtime, body care, feelings, sleep. Wow – it’s a full book that describes the very busy day of baby!
- If you are going to explore the body part theme, you will also want to look at the Literacy Explorer Kit *All About Me*! It has lots of ideas for body part games for babies and toddlers!

### Literacy Extensions:
- Extend the book by singing these songs during circle time. (Songs from 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
(Child's Name) stand up; (Child's Name) stand up.  
Turn around; touch the ground.  
Reach up really high now; jump to touch the sky (wow)  
Now sit down, now sit down.

### Literacy Craft:
- There are many ways to explore senses. For a simple smell activity, create a “Scratch and Sniff Painting”.
  - Mix a Jell-O package of your choice (strawberry works well) with water to create a gritty, watery paint.
Have children paint on to heavy cardstock. Red is especially nice on a large heart cut out around Valentine’s Day.

Allow to dry. Scratch and sniff.

**Science & Math:**

- Senses through your feet and hands!
  - Save bubble wrap or ask for a donation at your local shipping store. Lay flat on floor. Encourage children to walk, jump, and skip across the bubble wrap to hear it “pop”!
  - Create a sensory jar. Cover a large plastic jar (with large opening for a hand) with dark paper. Put an item in the jar. (cotton balls, marshmallows, cooked and cooled noodles)
  - Cut the toe off the end of a sock. Stretch the sock material over the top of the jar. Children can reach their hand inside without seeing inside. Have them guess the item in the jar.

- Measure Me!
  - Have children lie down or stand against a wall. Place string along side them to measure their length. Cut the string. Have them compare the length of their string with other children. You may want to cut a length of string to match your height and compare with your child.

**Parent Education:**

- Read the “Read the Book” section of this kit. Think about the different themes and pick one to explore in Parent Education. You may want to explore the questions in the book:
  - “What can you see?”
  - “What can you hear?”
  - “What can you smell?”
  - “How does it taste?”
  - “How does it feel?”

- Parent Education time is a great time for parents to create activities for their children. For example, help parents create a texture book or mat to have at home.
  - Take a large piece of cardboard and gather the following items: bubble wrap, foil, material scraps like fur or sequins, sand paper, and other items that have an interesting texture.
  - Cut the different items into different sized rectangles and squares. Using these pieces cover the piece of cardboard. Tape the material down using packing tape or duct tape. (colored duct tape is fun!)

- This book describes a typical day for a baby or toddler. Have parents describe their days from beginning to end. Are there times in the day that are more challenging for them? Do they have a favorite time of day with their child? Challenge them to think of a time of day and list adjectives to describe the experience. Use the book as a model. For example, bath time is described as “float, soap, splash, wash.”

- Parents can create a book about their day. Have them take 4-5 pictures of different times of the day. Place one picture per page and have them
<table>
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<th><strong>Snack:</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>• Choose a variety of healthy snacks for all ages of the playgroup. Model healthy snack choices and talk about options for different ages.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Gather round – have a spot for everyone. Parents with newborns can be a part of snack time, too!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Simple snack ideas: cut up bananas, soft crackers and yogurt.</td>
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describe as noted above using a few adjectives per page. Laminate and bind with yarn or string.
READ THE BOOK:

- Each time you read *Look at You*, you discover something new. Read the book first to yourself. Think about the many things that are explored in this book. This is a typical day for your child!
- Point to the pictures in the book and compare them with your baby! For example, on the first page it says, “eyes, nose, and mouth giggle.” You can say, “where are your eyes?” “do you giggle, let’s giggle!”

USE YOUR SENSES ART:

- Provide your older child with colored shaving cream. Squirt some on a mat or tray. Allow them to “paint” with the shaving cream.
- Provide your baby with applesauce. Allow them to “paint” with the applesauce.

SENSES WALK:

- Take a walk with your baby or toddler. Point out what you:
  - See - blue sky, green trees, a butterfly, red stop sign, fire hydrant...
  - Hear - birds chirping, cars driving, leaves crunching...
  - Smell - flowers, grass, rain (does rain have a smell?)
- What does your child see, hear, and smell?
SONGS TO SING:

- You may have sang these songs in playgroup from
  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

**I Have**
I have ten tiny fingers
I have ten tiny toes.
I have two ears,
I have two eyes,
I have a little nose.
I have a mouth to open,
And tiny teeth to bite,
I have a tongue,
Within my mouth
I keep it out of sight.
This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

- Reading Tips & Developmental Information For Your Baby & Toddler
- Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) Idea Sheet
- Supplies You Will Need For PACT Ideas:
  - Colored Shaving Cream
  - Applesauce
- Journal Activity Sheet
What did you like about the book *Look at You!*? Did you have a favorite page or picture?

Do you have a favorite time of day that you spend with your child? Describe it...

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 2011

References

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


Kuffner, Trish (1999), *The Toddler Busy Book*, Meadow Brook Press, Minnetonka, Minnesota


Manoloson, Ward, and Dodington (2007), *You Make The Difference*, The Hanen Centre Toronto, ON Canada


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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](http://www.babycenter.com/0_reading-to-your-baby_368.bc)

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