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

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Pamela Cote 2012
**BOOK LIST 2011**

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<table>
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<tr>
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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.
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Use the RR website for read aloud tips, parent handouts, and as a resource for early literacy skills.
The Circus Ship by Chris Van Dusen

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
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A Collaboration of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers
Pamela Cote 2012
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

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### Read the Book:
- Chris Van Dusen has created a colorful, moving, funny story about a collection of circus animals who find a home on an island in Maine. (see the parent education section to learn about how he came up with this book idea.)
- Have the children count and look at the different animals on the ship. The animals are in different spots throughout the story. Can they find them on the different pages?
- Study pages 148 and 149 of *Raising Readers A Treasury of Tales from Maine*. Can they find the 15 animals that are “hidden” on these pages?
- This is a book about friendship. Talk with the families about how and why the animals became friends with the island residents.

### Literacy Extensions:
- Visit your local library and look for children’s books that show “hidden” pictures (similar to page 148 in *Raising Readers A Treasury of Tales from Maine*). Share them with the children during story time.
- Circus Time!
  - Using the circus animals and circus tickets created in the Literacy Craft section; recreate a circus in your play room!
  - Set up four circus stations that their “animals” could visit. (you may also use stuffed animals, dolls, etc.) Stations could include: jumping through a hoola hoop, walking the tight rope (tie rope/string between two chairs), performing a dance, etc.
  - Each time the children visit a station, they have a hole punched in their circus ticket.

### Literacy Craft:
- Circus Animal
  - Have the children create one circus animal that can visit the “circus” described in the Literacy Extension section.
  - Provide cut outs of animals shown in The Circus Ship on heavy cardstock or parents can outline and cut out the animal of their choice.
  - Decorate the animal using crayons, markers, stickers, yarn, glitter, etc.
  - Attach the animal to a wooden stick (go to your local paint store and ask for a donation of paint stirrers)
- Circus Ticket
  - Create circus tickets (for literacy extension activity) using rectangular pieces of heavy cardstock. Children can color and decorate their tickets.

### Science:
- The Circus Ship story begins with the ship going through fog and a storm. Create fog in a bottle with the children and talk with them about how it is formed. (cool air moving over warm land). Children
should be supervised while they observe this science activity from ehow.com
  o Fill a clean, empty 2 liter bottle one third full with very hot water.
  o Using a medicine dropper, collect a few drops of rubbing alcohol and drop them into the 2 liter bottle.
  o Hold an ice cube over the opening of the bottle. What happens?
  o Have a conversation about this process. Older children can draw pictures about their observations.

**Parent Education:**

- Review the General Reading Tips & Developmental Information sheet with your parents.
- The Circus Ship is a great book to model reading strategies. Encourage parents to pause while reading the story and wonder, “what will happen next?” “where will the circus animals live?” “do you think they will put on circus shows for their island friends?”
- Parents should be encouraged to explore new words with their child: break the word apart by syllables, think about what is happening in the story, look for picture clues. Once a meaning is discovered, can they list other words that have the same meaning (synonyms)? Also, point out the Circus owner’s name “Paine”. What does his name mean? Is it interesting that the author gave him this last name?
- Read the information on page 116 in *Raising Readers A Treasury of Tales from Maine*. How did Chris Van Dusen get the idea for this story?
- Encourage them to keep their imaginations BIG. Have them choose one animal in the book. What is the animal’s name? Who is this animal living with on the island? What is their favorite food? Serious or silly – encourage them to be book explorers!

**Snack:**

- Serve popcorn (if age appropriate), lemonade, and animal crackers. You may want to recreate the picnic scene from page 143 in *Raising Readers A Treasury of Tales from Maine*.
- In addition, choose a variety of healthy snacks for all ages of the playgroup. Model healthy snack choices and talk about options for different ages.
- Gather round – have a spot for everyone. Parents with newborns can be a part of snack time, too!
Parent and Child Together Time Ideas

The Circus Ship by Chris Van Dusen

READ THE BOOK:

- *The Circus Ship* is a book that has many parts to talk about with your child.
- Explore the different animals in the story. Can they find them on the pages? Can they find the hidden animals on page 148 and 149 in the *Raising Readers A Treasury of Tales from Maine*?
- The animals become friends with the people who live on the island. Ask your child, “What does it mean to be a friend? How did the animals and the island people help each other?”

CREATE A HIDDEN PICTURE:

- Hidden pictures are fun to create. Have your child choose an animal from the book or a different animal.
- Talk about what the animal looks like (colors, markings, etc.)
- Where does the animal live? What is their natural habitat (home)?
- Help them draw the animal or cut one out from a magazine. Decorate the page, so that the animal is “hidden” or “camouflaged”

PAPER PLATE SNAKE:

- Place the paper plate flat on the table.
- Have your child draw a line that goes around and around their plate. Start at the edge and go into the middle.
- Have them cut (you may need to help) along the line.
- Once cut, have them decorate their “snake”
- They are fun to hang from the ceiling!
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:
  - Large sheet of paper
  - Crayons/markers/scissors/glue
  - Paper Plate
  - Yarn to hang “snake” from ceiling
- Journal Activity Sheet
JOURNAL - *The Circus Ship* by Chris Van Dusen

What did you like about the book *The Circus Ship*? Have you ever been to a circus?

Ask your child what they thought was the most exciting part of this story. Did their answer surprise you? Do you agree with them?

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...
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


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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
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# Book List 2011

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**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:**

- This colorful book with engaging text and illustrations will get everyone moving! Read through the book before your playgroup. Notice how the children are drawn outside by the music man. They continue to dance, move and shake throughout the story – all the while pulling the other characters into their dance.
- You might want to play a round of the hokey pokey or another movement song before reading this story. Then, after you read the story, you can discuss how the movements you made were similar and/or different.
- This is a fun story to read two times in a row – as many are! Encourage the children to “move” with the book during the second reading.

**Literacy Extensions:**

- Gather for story time with the Hokey Pokey, see the book’s version on page 24 of *Raising Readers A Treasury of Tales from Maine*
- The first phrase in the story is, “Dance with me. Twist with me.” Find a children’s version of “The Twist”. Teach the movement, play the song, and dance the dance!

**Literacy Craft:**

- Study the picture of the Music Man on page 11. Have children become a Music Person! Look for items for them to wear/use that make music. Each child can make a Shoe Box Guitar:
  - Place rubber bands (4 or more of different widths), in order of thickness around a small shoebox (without lid). Place them lengthwise.
  - Glue on decorations
  - Strum the guitar and sing a favorite tune!
  - From National Children’s Museum book, *Family Literacy Projects on a Budget*
- For more instrument crafts, see Explorer Kit 2010 *If You’re Happy and You Know It.*
- Balloon Animals. Blow up round, heavy duty balloons (not too full). Children can make animal faces using markers. See the animal balloons on page 17 of *Raising Readers A Treasury of Tales from Maine* for ideas.
- Want to make real balloon animals? Check out this link: [http://www.ehow.com/how_2046022_make-balloon-animals.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_2046022_make-balloon-animals.html)

**Science:**

- Explore Static Electricity – Have an Animal Parade on the Wall! Negative electrons want to be close to positive electrons. Static electricity occurs when the negative electrons chase the positive ones.
  - Rub the balloon on your hair and place it on the wall. Have children count to see how long it will stick on the wall.
  - Have the children place their “animals” in a parade on the wall.
<table>
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<th>Parent Education:</th>
<th>Snack:</th>
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| - Review the Developmental Information section with your parents. Talk with them about how their children like to move. Do they like to hop, skip, and jump? Do they play movement games with them? Explain this can help their child transition from one activity to another. “Let’s hop like a bunny into our pajamas.” “Can we skip to the car to go to playgroup?” | - Cupcake Making Station!  
  - In the story, the children visit a bakery. Provide baked cupcakes, frosting, sprinkles, etc. Each child may make their own cupcake.  
  - In addition, choose a variety of healthy snacks for all ages of the playgroup. Model healthy snack choices and talk about options for different ages. (The cupcake station is a special treat!)  
  - Gather round – have a spot for everyone. Parents with newborns can be a part of snack time, too! |
| - How are people affected by music? Listening to and providing music for your child has a positive affect on their cognitive brain development. Encourage parents to play music while they are pregnant and throughout their child’s life. Music and Crafts: Provide parents with a large piece of paper, colored pencils, markers, etc. Play different types of music and encourage them to sketch, doodle, and draw. Do they notice differences in their work when they listen to different types of music? Have them complete this activity with their child. This provides a concrete example of how music affects our moods. |        |
| Which animal will stay up the longest?  
  - Now, take a water bottle and spray another section of the wall. Move the balloon to the wet section of the wall. It won't stick. The positive electrons have partnered up with the negative ones in the water.  
  - Shadow Balloon – Tape the balloon to the wall so it is even with the child’s head and the head rubs against the balloon. Have the child walk away from the balloon – the balloon will follow! |        |
Parent and Child Together Time Ideas

*Dance with Me* by Charles R. Smith Jr.

**READ THE BOOK:**

- Ask to borrow *Dance with Me*. Your child will want to read it more than once.
- Point out the different places the children visit: the music man, bus stop, bakery, etc.
- After you read the story once, have your child do the movements while you read.
- Use these movements to help your child move from one activity to the other – break into dance throughout the day!

**MAKE PIE TIN CYMBALS:**

- Glue wooden spools or small knobs onto the back of two pie tins to make handles.
- Decorate the pie tins with ribbon, paper, and stickers.

**SET UP A MUSIC STATION AT HOME:**

- Children love to bang pots and pans. Gather household items to set up your station, such as, pots, pans, heavy spoons, measuring cups, etc.
- Make music with your child. Sit on the floor and tap out a beat. Make up a silly song to go with your “instruments”, such as:
  
  This is the way I bang the pot, bang the pot, bang the pot
  This is the way I bang the pot – all day long.
  This is the way I clap the spoons, clap the spoons, clap the spoons
  This is the way I clap the spoons – all day long.

  (Sing to the tune of “The Mulberry Bush”... This is the way I wash my face..)

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  - Stickers, ribbon, colored paper
- Journal Activity Sheet
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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
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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”)

A Collaboration of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers
Pamela Cote 2012
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:

- At first glance, *In the Wild* looks like a simple jungle book. As you read it, it unfolds into a beautiful book of animal poetry.
- Each page tells a story of an animal and is rich with activities. One poem could provide a whole playgroup for families! For example, it is noted that Zebra is always last when compared with the Antelope. A-Z. Panda introduces syllables when we read the word pres-ti-di-gi-ta-tion and then explore what the word means with families. So, read each poem carefully and look for the learning opportunities.
- Talk with your families about poems. Do they read other poetry books? Do they notice rhyming phrases in other books?

Literacy Extensions:

- Play a rhyming game – everyone can have fun with rhymes and poetry!
  - Sit in a circle with your families. Have one person say a word, such as “cat”. Have the next person say a word that rhymes with it...hat, bat, rat. Go around the circle, so everyone has a turn. Encourage children to help other children if they are stumped on a word. Introduce other words. You may want to add a motion to the game. Sit “criss cross applesauce” and slap your legs twice and clap your hands twice. This starts a nice rhythm for this game.
- Call everyone to story time with an animal sound. “Today, we are going to read about tigers, pandas, elephants, and even more animals! Let’s choose an animal to be while we walk to story time. Let’s be an elephant. Raise your trunk, sway your body, trumpet your trunk!”
- Sing this song at playgroup. The lyrics are provided in the PACT Take Home Sheet

**Monkey See, Monkey Do**

The monkey stomp, stomps, stomps his feet
The monkey stomp, stomps, stomps his feet
  Monkey see, monkey do
  The monkey does the same as you!

The monkey claps, claps, claps his hands
The monkey claps, claps, claps his hands
  Monkey see, monkey do
  The monkey does the same as you!

The monkey covers, covers, covers his eyes
The monkey covers, covers, covers his eyes
  Monkey see, monkey do
  The monkey does the same as you!

The monkey jumps, jumps, jumps up and down
The monkey jumps, jumps, jumps up and down
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Literacy Craft:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Science:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Tissue Paper or Sponge Paint Animals</td>
<td>• Safari Watch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Have children study the animals from <em>In the Wild</em>. They can choose an animal from the book or a different wild animal.</td>
<td>o Make Binoculars (idea also found in the Literacy Craft section of <em>The Bugliest Bug Literacy Explorer Kit</em>.) Give each child two toilet paper tubes. Help them cover the tubes with black construction paper. Poke a hole on each side of the tube and string yarn through the holes. Children may decorate their binoculars.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Have a parent outline the animal in black marker on a piece of heavy cardstock or provide animal prints for the families.</td>
<td>o Safari Maps: Create maps using the scraps from your Safari Vests. List the different rooms or areas in your center or home and hide animal prints at that location – one to two prints per spot. (you can use the animal pictures the children made) Place dots by the different spots you want the children to visit. Have the children move throughout the room with their binoculars looking for the animals. When they find an animal, they receive a sticker to place on their map. Look for animal stickers at your local dollar store. Play dramatic music – use your imagination and “walk through the jungle”!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Children can tear different colored tissue paper, dip in white glue, and paste inside their animal outline. Add googly eyes to complete the picture.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o If children would rather use paint, provide them with small paint sponges. Slightly dampen the sponge with water. Dip the sponge in a small amount of washable children’s paint and have them “sponge” throughout the outline.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>o Encourage the children to write the name of the animal on their paper or the first letter of the animal’s name. Have the children describe the animal using adjectives – describing words. Parents can write the words around the animal print to create “animal poetry”.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Safari Vest:</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Each child needs a large brown paper grocery bag.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Cut arm and neck holes in the bag to form a “vest”.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Have the children decorate their vests and use them for their safari watch described in the Science section.</td>
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| **Parent Education:** | |
|-----------------------| |
| • Children love to hear poetry, but many parents avoid it when reading to their children. You may want to read this book to your parents before sharing it with the children. | |
- Ask them what they notice about the poems:
  - Does every poem rhyme?
  - Are the animals compared to anything? (lion to the sun, elephant to a cloud)
  - What can we learn from the poems? (new words: preposterous and prestidigitation history: orangutans are in our family tree, other poems: “Tiger, Tiger Burning Bright, a famous poem by William Blake)

- What is their favorite animal? Why? What do they think their child’s favorite animal is? After you read the story to the families, have them ask their child what their favorite animal is in the story. Were they surprised with their child’s answer?
- Find other poetry books: serious, silly, colorful, etc. Share these books with your families.

### Snack:

- Animal Cookie Hunt! ([www.perpetualpreschool.com](http://www.perpetualpreschool.com))
  - Mix shredded coconut with a little bit of green food coloring.
  - Place the colored coconut in a small bowl and place animal crackers in the “grass”. Have children look for their safari animals!
- In addition, choose a variety of healthy snacks for all ages of the playgroup. Model healthy snack choices and talk about options for different ages.
- Gather round – have a spot for everyone. Parents with newborns can be a part of snack time, too!
Parent and Child Together Time Ideas
In the Wild David Elliott

READ THE BOOK:
- With your child, look through the book In the Wild before reading it together.
- What does your child notice about the animals and colors?
- Ask your child which animal they would like to read about first – you do not need to start at the beginning of the book.
- Read the poem with feeling and sound effects. Make your voice go LOUD and soft.

ANIMAL MASKS:
- Use a white paper plate. Cut out two eye openings and one mouth opening.
- Have your child choose an animal from the book and decorate the mask.
- Use crayons, markers and yarn for hair. Connect the mask with yarn.

SING THIS SONG:

Monkey See, Monkey Do
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The monkey stomp, stomps, stomps his feet
    Monkey see, monkey do
The monkey does the same as you!
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The monkey jumps, jumps, jumps up and down
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A Collaboration of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers
Pamela Cote 2012
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:
  - Paper Plate
  - Crayons and/or markers
  - Yarn
- Journal Activity Sheet
### JOURNAL - *In the Wild* David Elliott

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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


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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

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.whattoexpect.com
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Happy Reading and Playing!
# Raising Readers Book List 2011

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## Newborn
- **Baby Bear's Books**
  - Melissa Sweet

- **What Does Baby See?**
  - Begin Smart

- **Vroom Vroom Maisy**
  - Lucy Cousins

## 2 months
- **Look at That!**
  - Guido Van Genechten

## 4 months
- **I Love Colors**
  - Margaret Miller

## 6 months
- **All About Me**
  - DK Publishing

## 9 months
- **Peek-a-Boo What?**
  - Begin Smart

## 12 months
- **Look at You!**
  - Kathy Henderson

## 15 months
- **Knees and Toes**
  - Rookie Toddler

## 18 months
- **Meeow and the Little Chairs**
  - Sebastien Braun

## 2 years
- **Pouch!**
  - David Ezra Stein

## 3 years
- **The Seals on the Bus**
  - Lenny Hort

## 4 years
- **Kiss the Cow!**
  - Phyllis Root

## 5 years
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Literacy Explorer Kit

MEFLI 2012

One Frog Sang by Shirley Parenteau

This kit includes the following:

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- Playgroup Map – Theme Related Activities

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A Collaboration of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative
& Raising Readers
Pamela Cote 2012
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✓ 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.
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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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✓ 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
### Playgroup Map

**One Frog Sang** by Shirley Parenteau

### Read the Book:
- *One Frog Sang* is a colorful, counting book filled with Frogs!
- Before you begin reading the story, tell the children you may need their help finding the frogs. This will keep the children engaged from page to page. Read the page and then count the frogs.
- This is a fun counting book because it counts from 1 to 10 and 10 to 1. Practice counting with the children while you read the book.

### Literacy Extensions:
- In this story, the frogs make different noises. Explore the different sounds the frogs make with the children. Write each “sound” on a large piece of cardstock.
- Read the book a few times and see if the children remember the different frog sounds. Have them hold up the frog “sound cards” when you make the noise. Sound card example:

  **Chirrup, Chirrup**

### Literacy Craft:
- Frog Rocks – you can purchase smooth large rocks at a craft store or collect them throughout the year for this project.
  - Have children paint their rocks green. Add googly eyes or paint the eyes. Make sure they give their frogs a nice, red smile!
  - Create “lily pads” with coffee filters. Have children color their coffee filters with markers. Spray the coffee filters with a water bottle and allow to dry.
- Study the night sky in this book. The blue sky has different layers and gives a dreamy feeling. It is scattered with stars and has a large round moon. Show children the Vincent van Gogh painting “The Starry Night”. Have them create their own “starry” nights on large sheets of paper with water color paints. They may want to add frogs!

### Music, Movement & Math:
- Musical Lily Pads
  - Create large lily pads with your children using heavy green cardstock. Number each lily pad one through ten.
  - Scatter the lily pads on the floor. Play a game of musical “lily pads”.
  - Turn the music off and play hopscotch using the numbers you wrote on your lily pads.
- *One Frog Sang* is a numbers book. Count the frogs with your students. Practice counting 1-10 and 10-1. Mix up the lily pad numbers and help the children put them in the right order.

### Parent Education:
- Many parents focus heavily on literacy with their child, but not numeracy. Talk with parents about how they can bring number fun to
their child’s play time. Ask them what they already do for counting games.

- Suggest the following: counting stairs and steps when walking, buttons on coats, how many cheerios will they eat today (group the cheerios into sets for an early introduction of multiplication!), how many frogs on a page, letters in a word, and so on.

  
  o Number Bingo – You will need sheets of paper, a set of dice and poker chips or small markers. Have parents draw a 5 x 5 squared bingo board. Write numbers in each square (each bingo board should have the numbers in a different spot). For the game: Group parent and child together. Each family may take turns rolling the dice and calling out the number. Families place a chip on their sheet if they have that number. The family that has 5 across, down or diagonal wins.
  
  o Number Scramble – Have parents work as a group to prepare this fun game for playgroup! Take 10 sheets of paper and glue buttons on them. One sheet will have 1 button; the next sheet will have 2 and so on, up to 10. For the “scramble”: Shuffle the numbers sheets to mix them up. Tape one number sheet to each child (and parents can play if a small group). When you say “go”, the children must count their buttons and work together to line up in order from 1 to 10. Variations of the game: Line up from 10 to 1. Each time you say “go” have the children switch number sheets.

Snack:

- Frog Food (from www.perpetualpreschool.com) Mix the following:
  
  o Bugs – plain M&Ms. Flies – raisins. Worms – chow mein noodles or small pretzel sticks. Small Fish – Goldfish. Have all the children help pour and stir the “frog food.”

- In addition, choose a variety of healthy snacks for all ages of the playgroup. Model healthy snack choices and talk about options for different ages.

- Gather round – have a spot for everyone. Parents with newborns can be a part of snack time, too!
Parent and Child Together Time Ideas
One Frog Sang by Shirley Parenteau

READ THE BOOK:

- Take a picture walk with your child through the book One Frog Sang…what do you notice? Frogs!
- Count frogs with your child 1 to 10 and 10 to 1.
- What else can you count in the book? How about…how many different noises do the frogs make? How many frog legs are in this story? How many total frog pictures are in the book?

STARRY SKIES:

- You may have done this activity in playgroup, but children will love to paint a new sky!
- Using water color paints, paint a night or day sky on a large sheet of paper. Allow to dry.
- Once dry, add pictures with crayons, markers, or magazine cut outs.

SING A LITTLE FROG SONG:

Five Little Speckled Frogs
Five little speckled frogs, sitting on a speckled log, eating the most delicious bugs – YUM, YUM
One jumped in to the pool, where it was nice and cool, now there are four speckled frogs GLUB GLUB
(Repeat the song counting down until there are no frogs left!)
This Explorer Bag Contains the Following:

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  - Water colors
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Resources

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www.healthychildren.org

Baby Center
www.babycenter.com

Candlewick Press, Raising Readers
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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
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Pamela Cote 2012
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Melissa Sweet  
*What Does Baby See?*  
Begin Smart  
*Vroom Vroom Maisy*  
Lucy Cousins  
*Look at That!*  
Guido Van Genechten  
*I Love Colors*  
Margaret Miller  
*All About Me*  
DK Publishing | *Look at That!*  
Guido Van Genechten  
*Look at You!*  
Kathy Henderson  
*Knees and Toes*  
Rookie Toddler  
*peek-a-boo what?*  
Begin Smart  
*Peek-a-Boo What?*  
Begin Smart | *Pouch!*  
David Ezra Stein  
*The Seals on the Bus*  
Lenny Hort  
*Kiss the Cow!*  
Phyllis Root  
*Meeow and the Little Chairs*  
Sebastien Braun  
*Raising Readers: A Treasury of Tales from Maine* |
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.
The Bugliest Bug by Carol Diggory Shields

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:
✓ 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:
- Get ready to love BUGs! This book has a variety of bugs in the story. After you read this story once, children will want to study the pictures and count and identify the bugs!
- The first page in the story gives the definition of a bug – it has six legs, might wiggle and/or crawl.
- These bugs are colorful. Have children study and choose their bug for the Literacy Craft section.
- This story rhymes and reads like a silly, upbeat poem. Read the story using a dramatic voice – use sound effects and change your facial expressions.
- There are clues in the story (hidden pictures) that show that the judges are not “bugs”. Can the children find them the second time you read the story?

## Literacy Extensions:
- Talk with the children about the differences between insects and arachnids. How many legs does each have? Do they look different in other ways? Would you rather have an insect or an arachnid as a pet? If you did have one as a pet, what would they need to live with you?

## Literacy Craft:
- Bug Time! For this craft you will need, egg cartons, paint, googly eyes, pipe cleaners, and glitter.
  - Have each child design their “Bugliest” Bug! Ask them how long they want their bug to be and cut the egg carton for them.
  - Children will paint and decorate their egg cartons to create bugs. Help them poke holes into the egg carton and insert the pipe cleaners for legs and antennas. Make sure they count their legs and have the right amount to be an insect!
- Create Binoculars for your Bug Hunt (see Science section)
  - Give each child two toilet paper tubes. Help them cover the tubes with black construction paper. Poke a hole on each side of the tube and string yarn through the holes. Children may decorate their binoculars.

## Science:
- Study Bugs – go to the library and check out books on different types of bugs. Study the books with the children: look at the pictures, read simple facts to them. See if they can find the bugs from *The Bugliest Bug* in their library bug books.
- Go on a Bug Hunt. Using the “binoculars” they create in the Literacy Craft section, have the families go on a bug hunt. Walk outdoors and investigate the grass, trees, and leaves. What do they notice? Talk with them about the importance of leaving bugs and animals in their natural habitat.
**Parent Education:**

- Talk with parents about the conversations they have with their children when they read stories to them. Do they point out pictures? Do they make predictions? (remind them a guess does not need to be correct, there is no right or wrong answer with predictions) Do they help their child compare things in the book, such as “This little boy is wearing a red shirt in the book. You are wearing a red shirt too, but your shirt has stripes on it.”
- *The Bugliest Bug* is a great book to introduce the concept of compare and contrast to parents. Talk with parents about looking for similarities and differences between the insects. How are they different from the arachnids?
- Introduce the concept of a Venn Diagram. This is a compare/contrast diagram and is especially helpful to complete before writing a compare and contrast essay. For a children’s Venn Diagram use pictures (magazine cut outs) instead of words. A Venn Diagram is two circles that intersect. Check for samples on line.

**Snack:**

- There are many fun “bug” snacks to share at playgroup. Here are a few:
  - Ants on Log: Fill a piece of celery with peanut butter and top with raisins. Ants on a Stump: Slice apples in a circle. Drop small amounts of peanut butter on the slice and add raisins.
  - This bug snack is from the 2010 *Bob* Literacy Explorer Kit:
    - Create a flying insect:
      - Fill a celery stick with peanut butter
      - Use carrots (shredded work best) for legs and arms, raisins for eyes, string cheese for the antennae
  - Don’t forget the arachnids!
    - Spread cream cheese or peanut butter on an oval cracker. Stick eight pretzel sticks into the cream cheese or peanut butter for “legs” and use raisins or chocolate chips for “eyes”.
- In addition, choose a variety of healthy snacks for all ages of the playgroup. Model healthy snack choices and talk about options for different ages.
- Gather round – have a spot for everyone. Parents with newborns can be a part of snack time, too!

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Sing this song while on your bug hunt ([www.everythingpreschool.com](http://www.everythingpreschool.com))

A-hunting we will go
A -hunting we will go
We'll see a (insert any insect here)
visit it
(loudly) and then we'll walk along!
Parent and Child Together Time Ideas
The Bugliest Bug by Carol Diggory Shields

READ THE BOOK:
- Read The Bugliest Bug to your child more than once. After you read it the first time, try some of these activities:
  - Can your child find the clues that the arachnids (spiders) are in the story?
  - How many different insects are in the story?
  - Which is their favorite insect? Why?
  - Did they think Dilly was brave when she saved the other insects?
  - Did she deserve the Bugliest Bug award?

INSECT COLLAGE:
- Cut clear contact paper into the shape of an insect, such as an ant, ladybug, or butterfly.
- Have your child tear different colored pieces of tissue paper into small to medium size pieces.
- Place the tissue paper on the bug cut out. Place the top of the clear contact paper back over the insect shape.
- This can be used as a place mat... or...punch a hole at the top and string it with yarn. It's a great decoration for their room!

NATURE WALK:
- Use the binoculars you made in playgroup for a nature walk.
- Go for a walk with your child. Study the sky, trees, and grass. Look for bugs and observe them. Where are they going? What are they doing?
- Talk with your child about how he/she can take care of your yard, neighborhood, and the whole earth!
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:
  - Clear contact paper
  - Different colored tissue paper
  - String/yarn
  - Binocular instructions if necessary
- Journal Activity Sheet

A Collaboration of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative & Raising Readers
Pamela Cote 2012
What did you like about the book *The Bugliest Bug*? What do you think your child’s favorite bug was?

Read a story to your child and compare something in the story to something in your child’s life. For example, “This little boy is wearing a red shirt. You are wearing a red shirt, too. What is a little different about your shirt? Yes, it has stripes!” What did you compare? Describe your conversation....

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

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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