



Books Aloud! is an educational enrichment initiative that promotes emergent literacy and library services for parents of preschool children, day care providers and preschool teachers. Through a series of monthly workshops, adults are provided with the resources and skills needed to read aloud successfully with young children. Books Aloud! workshops emphasize early literacy skills and provide participants with ideas and activities to share books with children. Attend a Workshop

What is Early Literacy?

Early literacy is everything that children learn about reading and writing before they can actually read and write. Here are the set of skills that children must acquire between birth and age six to form the foundation for reading success:

Vocabulary

Knowing the names of things

Print Motivation

Interest and enjoyment in books

Print Awareness

Noticing print and following the words on the page

Narrative Skills

Being able to describe things and tell a story

Letter Knowledge

Recognizing and understanding the names and sounds of individual letters

Phonological Awareness

Being able to hear and play with the sounds that form words

Why is Early Literacy Important?

Lifelong literacy begins long before a child enters school. Reading aloud and bringing books into daily life is the key to encouraging and developing a young child's ability to read. Research indicates that children who have strong early literacy skills become successful readers. Sharing books with children should begin at birth.

Click on an age group for more information and book suggestions



Babies



Toddlers



Preschool



Kindergarten



Books Aloud! Workshops

Each month the Books Aloud! workshop will focus on a theme. Participants will receive free books and supporting material. You will learn ways to bring books to life through reading aloud and related activities.

From October to May, Books Aloud! workshops are held in locations throughout the city. To check the schedule, click on Books Aloud Calendar

Register Today

Adults interested in attending the free workshops are welcome. Advance registration is necessary. To register for a Books Aloud! workshop, or for more information, please call 215-686-5372.

Child Care Providers

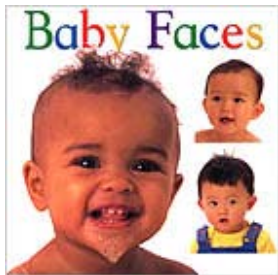
Child care providers will receive a certificate crediting them with one hour of training. Books Aloud! is accredited by the Department of Public Welfare to offer free continuing education credits (PQAS) to day care providers.

To learn more consult the PA Early Learning Keys to Quality website <http://www.pakeys.org/>

6 to 12 months

Babies

Loving interaction and communicating with your baby is natural. Did you know that by playing, reading, and talking with your baby you are building a strong foundation for life long learning?



Babies love to look, touch, taste, smell, and listen

Babies listen to voices and other sounds

Babies smile and mimic adult expressions

Babies make sounds

Babies love to touch books, look at pictures, and put books in their mouth

Look for books with big simple shapes. Infants love books with pictures of babies and faces. Board books with rounded edges and books made of cloth or soft material are also great to share.

Book Suggestions

My Animals by Xavier Deneux

Baby Faces by DK Publishing

Global Babies by Global Fund for Children

White on Black by Tana Hoban

Peek-a-Who? by Nina Landen

Say Goodnight by Helen Oxenbury

Games Babies Play : From Birth to Twelve Months by Vicki Lansky
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Visit the library often and be sure to ask your librarian for more suggestions.

Reading and Activities

- Read aloud to your baby
- Point to the pictures in the book and name them
- Play “peek-a-boo” and “pat-a-cake”
- Recite nursery rhymes or other rhymes that you enjoy
- Attend a Baby Storytime

Try this:

Hold your baby in your lap. Open a board book and slowly turn the pages. When your baby taps the pages or notices the picture, give verbal encouragement. For example, you might say “Yes! That is a kitten.” As you enjoy the book together, keep talking and encouraging your baby’s interest in the book.

To learn more about books for babies and early literacy activities attend a Books Aloud! Workshop

To read about early literacy and infants

- **Every Child Ready to Read**

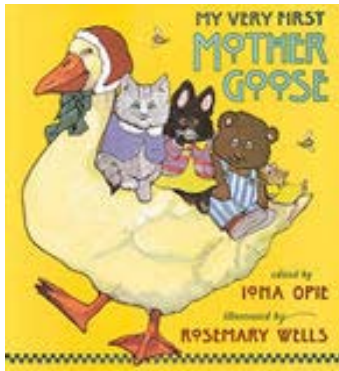
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/ecrr/workshopsab/workshopmaterials/parentguidebrochuresa/parentguidebrochures.cfm>

- **Zero to Three**

http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/early_learning_handout.pdf?docID=3081&AddInterest=1153

1 to 2 years

Toddlers are active and love learning through play. Books and reading are fun! Share books with toddlers by reading the text and talking about the pictures and stories.



- **Toddlers** will hold books and turn pages
- **Toddlers** can pay attention to a story; as they grow so will their attention span
- **Do not worry** if you do not read the entire book or skip pages
- **Toddlers** love reading the same book over and over again
- **Toddlers** can recite favorite stories and rhymes from memory
- **Older toddlers** will begin to pretend to read and pretend to write

Look for books that tell simple stories or books that rhyme. Silly books, animal books, and bed time books are very popular. Books that have flaps and interactive elements are also good choices.

Book Suggestions

I Can Do It Too by Karen Baiker

My Car by Byron Barton

My Daddy and I by Eloise Greenfield

Kitten's First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes

Where's Spot? by Eric Hill

Peekaboo Morning by Rachel Isadora

Hush! A Thai Lullaby by Minfong Ho

Please, Puppy, Please by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee

My Many Colored Days by Dr Seuss

Brown Sugar Babies by Charles R. Smith

Leaves by David Ezra Stein

Reading and Activities

- Read every day!
- Create a “print rich” environment by providing a variety of books for your toddler
- Bring books to read on the bus, in the car, and everywhere you go
- Encourage your toddler when they pretend to write or pretend to read
- When reading, pause to ask questions and discuss the book together

Try this:

Read **Noisy Nora** by Rosemary Wells. Gather items that can be used to make sounds. Have the child(ren) predict what kind of sound will be made with the various items. Stress the use of sound words like boom, bang, tap, etc.

To learn more about books for toddlers and early literacy activities attend a Books Aloud! Workshop

To read about early literacy and toddlers

- **Every Child Ready to Read**

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/ecrr/workshopsab/workshopmaterials/parentguidebrochuresa/parentguidebrochures.cfm>

- **Zero to Three**

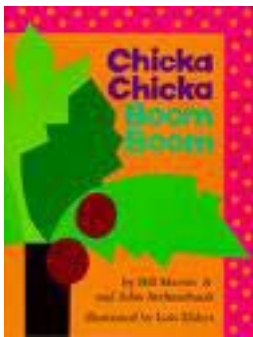
http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/early_learning_handout.pdf?docID=3081&AddInterest=1153

- **Infant and Toddler – PA Learning Standards for Early Childhood**

http://www.pde.state.pa.us/early_childhood/lib/early_childhood/final_Infant-Toddler_Pages_42-84.pdf

34 to years

Preschool children are able to choose books that interest them. They can retell a story, act out a story, and draw pictures about the story. Preschoolers hear the sounds that make words and recognize that printed letters form words.



- Read every day!
- Encourage your child's interest in reading by allowing them to choose books that they like
- Ask a librarian for books that match your child's interests
- Go to Storytime at your local branch
- Encourage your children when they pretend to write or pretend to read

Provide as much reading material as possible. Include picture books, poetry, wordless books, concept books, information books, and children's magazines. Let your child see you reading and writing and talk to your child about what you are doing.

Book Suggestions

Ella Sarah Gets Dressed by Margaret Chodos-Irvine

Feast for Ten by Catherine Falwell

Honey, I Love by Eloise Greenfield

The Hello, Goodbye Window by Norton Juster

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin

Bee Bim Bop! By Linda Sue Park

Not a Stick by Antoinette Portis

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

I Love My Hair by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley

Reading and Activities

- Share alphabet books and counting books
- Encourage your child to read along by running your finger under the text as you read
- Share books with repetition and patterned language, and emphasize the sounds that make words

Try this:

Read an alphabet book with your child. Ask your child to point to the first letter of their name. Ask your child to think of words that begin with the same letter. Have fun combining the words that start with that letter. For example – Peter, Pencil, Purple

To learn more about books for preschoolers and early literacy activities attend a Books Aloud! Workshop

To read about early literacy and preschoolers

- **Every Child Ready to Read** (American Library Association)

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/ecrr/ecrrhomepage.cfm>

- **Reach Out and Read**

<http://www.reachoutandread.org/index.aspx>

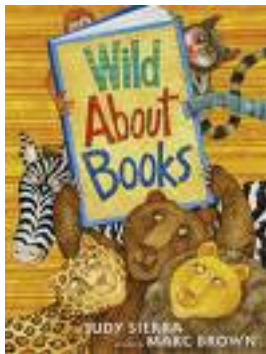
- **Pre-Kindergarten – PA Learning Standards for Early Childhood**

http://www.pde.state.pa.us/early_childhood/lib/early_childhood/Pre-K_Standards_2007.pdf

56 to years

Kindergarten

Your child is five or six years old and enrolled in formal schooling. They can read simple books by themselves. They still love reading with you and sharing books with adults and other children.



- Continue to use your local library and make library visits a priority
- Borrow as many books as you can to create a wide array of reading material for your family
- Your library offers free programs that encourage young readers, take advantage of these programs

Look for books with humor, action, interesting words, interesting sounds, and lively characters. The strong narrative of simple folktales are also popular with children in kindergarten.

Book Suggestions

Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes

The Twelve Dancing Princesses by Rachel Isadora

Actual Size by Steve Jenkins

Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock by Eric Kimmel

Dim Sum for Everyone by Grace Lin

Mama's Saris by Pooja Makhijani

Just a Minute! A Trickster Tale and Counting Book by Yuyi Morales

My Name Is Yoon by Helen Recorvits

Reading and Activities

- Remember reading is fun!
- When you read with your child, ask open ended questions. For example, “What do you think will happen next?”
- Let your child read to you
- Give your child an extra 15 minutes before bed to read on their own

Try this:

Ask your child to read their favorite book with you. Ask your child to describe the things they like about the book. Then go to the library and find books written by the same author or find books illustrated by the same artist.

To learn more about books for children in Kindergarten and early literacy activities attend a Books Aloud! Workshop

To read about early literacy and Kindergarten

- **Every Child Ready to Read (American Library Association)**

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/ecrr/workshopsab/workshopmaterials/parentguidebrochuresa/parentguidebrochures.cfm>

- **Reach Out and Read**

<http://www.reachoutandread.org/index.aspx>

- **Kindergarten – PA Learning Standards for Early Childhood**

http://www.pde.state.pa.us/early_childhood/lib/early_childhood/final_Kindergarten_Standards_2007.pdf