

WHAT IS EARLY LITERACY?

Children are born ready to learn, and you provide the opportunities for learning through everyday experiences. Through these interactions, children develop knowledge about reading, writing and learning before they even know how to read or write. This knowledge is called **early literacy**. There are *five early literacy practices* you can work on with your child to help develop early literacy skills:

Read

Reading is the single most important activity for preparing children to read on their own and for building all early literacy skills. The more pleasurable book sharing is, the more regular and frequent an activity it will become.

Talk

The more you talk with your child, the more words he or she will learn. Children need to hear words many times before understanding the meaning of the word and how to use it. Speak in the language most comfortable for you. Children increase their understanding of the world when they hear more words in any language.

Sing

Singing slows down language so your child can hear the smaller sounds in words. Singing with your child builds pathways, memory, introduces new words and strengthens attention. Add the actions to songs, like *The Itsy Bitsy Spider*, to build comprehension skills.

Write

Writing is more than just holding a pencil. Young children need years of practice to get their fingers and their minds ready. They must have fine motor strength, coordination, motor memory and skill to organize their thoughts and movements to write and draw. Provide writing materials and make practicing fun and something you do together.

Play

Playing is also one of the best ways for children to learn about the world, explore their imagination and creativity, learn language, build fine & gross motor skills and practice important social skills. When playing, follow your child's lead, put away distractions, get down on the floor and make a lot of eye contact.



SUCCESS STARTS EARLY

Your child loves to be close to you and hear the sound of your voice. A loving relationship develops between you and your child when you share books, sing songs and recite rhymes with him or her. The bond you create with your child through books and music will support his or her learning for a lifetime.

OUR FAMILY PLACE CENTER

Children discover and practice new skills through purposeful play, and toys are their tools. The Family Place Center in the Children's Library at Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library is a safe, fun environment where you and your young child can read, play and learn. This specially-designed space features materials for children and parents including board books, picture books, toys, puzzles, blocks and drawing stations, all creating opportunities for little ones to explore. As your child's first and most important teacher, these activities will help you build your child's early literacy skills.

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Play, Grow & Learn Together at your Family Place Library



**Our staff is here to support you and your little one.
We hope you will enjoy our many programs & services.**

Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library | Your Family Place Library
720.887.2315 | 3 Community Park Road, Broomfield CO 80020
www.broomfieldlibrary.org



Your local library is part of the network of Family Place Libraries™, Building Foundations for Early Learning



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PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS AND CHILDREN AGES BIRTH TO FIVE

Ask a librarian, check the monthly Children's Library newsletter or library website to find out dates and times for all Children's Library programs.

Summer Reading Program

Newborns through children entering 5th grade

Children as young as newborn may join the annual Summer Reading Program and listen to stories. Children start learning how to read on the laps of their parents and early experiences at the library help kids develop a love of reading.

Story Times

See separate story time information

The library offers story times throughout the week for the whole family. Each story time focuses on building early literacy skills during the program while modeling ways to read with children at home.

Family Early Literacy Time

Newborn to preschool focus (all ages welcome)

This story time includes books, fingerplays and songs focusing on an early literacy skill, followed by a craft. Families are able to practice fun activities they can use at home to build early literacy skills.

Cuddletime Concerts

Newborn to 24 months and a caregiver

Music helps babies develop language skills and movement activities strengthens fine and gross motor skills. This program involves movement, participation and laughter for babies and toddlers.

Early Literacy Fair

Newborns to 5 years and a caregiver

Children birth to five years come to the library for activities with caregivers to build pre-reading skills. Activities are divided into different stations, each one focusing on an early literacy practice. This annual event promotes the interaction between children and parents, which is when learning truly happens. Parents learn about early literacy and leave with ideas they can use in their own home to build literacy skills.

Parent Toddler Workshop

18 to 35 months and a caregiver

Over the course of five weeks, spend time together, play, make friends, and talk one-on-one with specialists on child development.



MATERIALS AND RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Children's Library Website

www.broomfieldchildrenslibrary.org

Visit the Children's Library website for more information about our library programs for children and their parents or caregivers. Choose *Early Literacy* to learn how to build early literacy skills with children through reading, talking, singing, playing and writing.

Early Literacy Brochures

Early literacy brochures for babies, toddlers and preschoolers are available in the Children's Library. Take these home to learn more about the six early literacy skills and ways to build these skills with your children.

Baby Welcome Packets

Broomfield residents who have an infant age newborn to 1 year (12 months), visit the Children's Library to pick up your Baby Welcome Program gift packet. Each packet of free materials includes books, bookmark, baby T-shirt and library related informational materials. We would like to help your family have a positive beginning to a lifelong learning experience with books.

Colorado Bright Beginnings

The Children's Library partners with Colorado Bright Beginnings to hand out their free gift bags to families with children 0 - 12 months, 12 - 24 months and 24 - 36 months. Each gift bag contains a free book for your child, information about reading to your children, games and activities to promote learning and information on a wide-range of parenting topics. Every child living in Colorado between 0 - 3 years is eligible to receive these bags. Stop by the Children's Library to receive your free Colorado Bright Beginnings bag.

PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS AND ADULTS WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Confident Parenting: Speaker Series

Parents, Caregivers and Adults Working with Children
Boulder Institute for Psychotherapy & Research provides a monthly speaker series about the best practices for parenting young children. This introductory lecture style series is presented in an engaging manner by professionals who really care about kids and families. Topics include sibling rivalry, infant and toddler brain development, the importance of play, helping children conquer fears and anxieties, raising children to make good choices, social and emotional development, & more.

Confident Parenting: Preventing Challenging Behaviors

Parents of young children toddler to preschool
The Children's Library partners with Bal Swan Children's Center to offer a five part, once-a-month, workshop series that focuses on research-based practices and strategies to reduce and prevent challenging behavior. Parenting toddlers and preschoolers can be exhausting and overwhelming. It can also be filled with joy and true connection. Each month, a new topic is introduced to provide parents with effective tools they can implement into daily routines to make the day happy, fun & successful.

Confident Parenting Workshops

Parents of young children toddler to preschool
The Children's Library partners with Bal Swan Children's Center to offer a six week workshop that combines research-based practices and strategies to reduce challenging behavior in children and to share early literacy skills and activities with parents to foster a love of reading and learning in their family. Parents begin to see themselves as teachers, focusing on social and emotional skills children need to be successful as well as early literacy skills children need to become confident learners.

Every Grandchild Ready to Read

Grandparents of young children birth to preschool
A one day training for grandparents to learn about the importance of early literacy and the skills they can build with their grandchildren through reading, writing, singing, talking and playing.

Taste of Teacheread

Parents, Preschool Teachers & Childcare Providers

A one day training utilizing picture books for adults to learn ways to share books with children to make reading fun, increase comprehension and develop early literacy skills in the classroom, childcare setting or at home. Books covered in the training come with ideas for extending the stories to build literacy skills.



LIBRARY KITS

Early Literacy Kits

Babies, toddlers and preschoolers

The Early Literacy Kits help prepare children for learning how to read and contain lots of great tips and ideas to expand learning through everyday activities. The Early Literacy Kits are available to check out and take home for three weeks at a time.

Grab & Go Story Kits

The Grab & Go Story Kits are theme bags. They have three books, a puppet or activity that follows the theme of the books, a DVD or music CD and a handout with information about the six early literacy skills and the importance of reading to children every day. The Grab & Go Kits are available to check out and take home for three weeks at a time.

