

*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 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.

**Based on information from Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library, a program of the Public Library Association and the Association of Library Service to Children: ala.org/everychild*



SUCCESS STARTS EARLY

Children need to feel safe, loved, and cared for in order to learn. Strong, positive relationships with parents and caregivers help children develop trust, teach children to be caring towards others and give a sense of right and wrong; these loving relationships are the foundation for all future learning.

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 writing activities, 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.

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 and services.**



BROOMFIELD
Mamie Doud Eisenhower
PUBLIC LIBRARY



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 newsletter for 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 topic, followed by a craft and time to practice fun play activities families can do at home to build early literacy skills.

Cuddletime Concerts

Newborn to 24 months & a caregiver

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

Early Literacy Fair

Newborns to 5 years & 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 & a caregiver

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



PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS & ADULTS WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Confident Parenting: Speaker Series

Parents, Caregivers & Adults Working with Children

The Children's Library partners with community resource professionals to provide a monthly speaker series focusing on normal, day-to-day challenges, as well as specific topics of interest to parents. This lecture style series is presented in an engaging manner by professionals who really care about kids and families. Past 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 and more.

Parenting Book Club

Parents

The Parenting Book Club provides an opportunity for parents to discover and discuss parenting strategies together by reading and studying one book for eight weeks. The group will have discussion meetings four times, every other week, in that eight-week period. The Parenting Book Club is hosted by the Children's Library and facilitated by a Child & Family Psychotherapist from the Mariposa Center who can field questions that may arise after reading the books and discussing them as a group.

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.

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 on our website and in the Children's Library. Learn about five early literacy practices and ways to build early literacy 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.

Bright by 3

Receive a free gift bag for your children 0 - 12 months, 12 - 24 months and 24 - 36 months. Each bag contains a free board book, information about reading aloud, 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. Text "BRIGHT" to 444999 to receive weekly text messages with tips targeted to your child's age. Stop by the Children's Library to receive your free Bright by 3 bag.

Colorado 2-1-1

A statewide initiative to provide information and referral service to residents in need of non-emergency (i.e. non-life-threatening) assistance. The help line has the most comprehensive listing of nonprofit health and human service agencies. Find help for food, clothing, healthcare, employment, drug treatment, childcare, utility/rent assistance, adult literacy, mental health and elder care. Call 2-1-1 or visit www.211colorado.org.



LIBRARY KITS

Early Literacy Kits

Babies, toddlers & 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.



MAMIE DOUD EISENHOWER PUBLIC LIBRARY

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3 Community Park Road, Broomfield CO 80020

Children's Library Phone

720.887.2315

Library Website

www.broomfieldlibrary.org