

# Ready to Succeed

An Early Literacy and School Readiness Newsletter for Professionals

## Reading Books with Toddlers

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Keeping a busy and independent toddler interested in books and book play may take some special techniques and patience, but having young children who love books will make the extra effort worthwhile.

Here are a few things to keep in mind when looking for books for toddlers:

- ◆ Pictures that are colorful, fairly simple, and realistic are the most appealing.
- ◆ Text that rhymes, has repeating phrases, or is a lift-the-flap design attract and engage toddlers.
- ◆ Wordless books encourage creativity, conversation, and personalization of the story.

Toddlers often have a hard time staying in one



place and paying attention to one thing. It is important to remember that our concept of warm story telling may not be the same idea as a toddler's.

You may want to try the following:

- ◆ Accept that you may only be able to read or talk about a couple of pages at a time. Find short books and books with few words to a page. Consider reading wordless books so that you can make up the story as you go ~ make it shorter or longer, depending upon the attention span.
- ◆ Allow a toddler to stand while you read if she wants. She may walk away or play with toys, and then come back when your voice sounds especially interesting. Toddlers are still benefiting from hearing the language in the story.
- ◆ Try reading stories during snack time. When toddlers have something to eat or drink and their mouth is busy, the big muscles can often stay still more easily.
- ◆ Exaggerate rhymes and actions to help keep his interest.
- ◆ Involve toddlers in the story. They can jabber along with familiar phrases, act out the action content, and find things hidden in a picture.
- ◆ Follow toddlers leads when looking at a book. Name what she points to and talk about it.
- ◆ Learning to be more independent is stressful. Toddlers need the quiet comfort that reading a book together creates.



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**Ready to Succeed** aims to assist everyone involved with the development of young children to value and embrace their role in fostering early literacy and school readiness.

# Fall Into a Good Book!

## FALL

Featured Title:

### *When Autumn Comes*

Robert Maass

Large photos and a simple text portray a typical autumn ~ raking leaves, airing quilts, biting into crisp red apples, and starting school.

---

*Autumn*

Nicola Baxter

*Autumn Leaves*

Ken Robbins

*What's Colorful About Fall?*

Mary Pat Finnegan

*Fall Words*

Jane Belk Moncure

*Autumn Story*

Jill Barklem

*Why Do Leaves Change Color?*

Betsy Maestro

*Fall is Here! I Love It!*

Elaine Good

*Clifford's First Autumn*

Norman Bridwell

*Autumn: An Alphabet Acrostic*

Steven Schnur

*Possum's Harvest Moon*

Anne Hunter

*Fall Leaves*

Mary Packard

*I Know It's Autumn*

Eileen Spinelli

*Leaf Man*

Lois Ehlert

*Blue's Fall Day*

Lauryn Silverhardt

## PUMPKINS

Featured Title:

### *It's Pumpkin Time!*

Zoe Hall

A brother and sister begin preparations for their favorite holiday, in the garden. Painted paper collages brightly show progress in the pumpkin patch from the seed-planting through to harvesting the pumpkin.

---

*Big Pumpkin*

Erica Silverman

*The Biggest Pumpkin Ever*

Steven Kroll

*Five Little Pumpkins*

Dan Yaccarino

*Miss Fiona's Stupendous*

*Pumpkin Pies*

Mark Kimball Moulton

*Patty's Pumpkin Patch*

Teri Sloat

*Pumpkin Circle: The Story of a Garden*

George Levenson

*Pumpkin Eye*

Denise Fleming

*Pumpkin Heads!*

Wendell Minor

*The Pumpkin Patch*

Elizabeth King



## HALLOWEEN

Featured Title:

### *Dinosaurs' Halloween*

By Liza Donnelly

An encounter with a fellow trick-or-treater whose dinosaur costume is remarkably realistic gives a boy a Halloween full of surprises.

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*10 Trick-or-Treaters: a Halloween Counting Book*  
Janet Schulman

*Mumbo Jumbo: The Creepy ABC*  
Michael Roberts

*Dem Bones*

Bob Barner

*The 13 Days of Halloween*  
Carol Greene

*Zoom Broom*

Margie Palatini

*Happy Halloween, Biscuit!*  
Alyssa Satin Capucilli

*Ghost's Hour, Spook's Hour*  
Eve Bunting

*My Monster Mama Loves Me So*  
Laura Leuck

*The Best Halloween Hunt Ever*  
John Speirs

*Scary, Scary Halloween*  
Jan Brett

*Bugs That Go Bump in the Night*  
David A. Carter

*Dragon's Halloween*  
Dav Pilkey

*Halloween Night*  
Arden Druce

*Halloween Pie*  
Michael O. Tunnell

*Monster Mischief*  
Pamela Jane

# Taking Care of Yourself - A Check List

In order to provide high-quality child care in your program, you need to give **yourself** some high-quality care! Use this checklist suggested by *Penn State Cooperative Extension's*

*Better Kid Care Program* to see how well you take care of yourself. Review your findings for at least one week.

Think about the **additional** ways you could take better care of yourself! Have some fun with it!



Place a check next to the things you did to take care of yourself during the week.

### **Taking care of my health:**

- I ate three balanced meals yesterday
- I got enough sleep last night
- I got some exercise yesterday

### **Taking care of my heart:**

- I laughed at least three times today
- I did something quiet by myself this week
- I gave myself a pat on the back for something I did well
- I asked someone to help me with a problem
- I did something fun this week

- I gave and received a hug each day

### **Taking care of daily details:**

- I organized my day so I didn't feel rushed
- I took a little time for myself
- I found some time to do a little loafing
- I set my priorities and stuck to them

### **Taking care of my mind:**

- I read or talked about something I am interested in
- I tried out a new idea

To be physically and emotionally fit to take care of children you must first take excellent care of **yourself!**

# Stages of Literacy Development and What You Can Do

From birth children are developing their early literacy skills. The following guide, according to *Reach Out and Read National Center*, focuses on the abilities for each



age level and the simple things you can do to further promote literacy development. Remember, all children are different and

develop skills at different times.

## ◆ 6 ~ 12 Months

*Abilities:*

- ◆ reaches for books
- ◆ puts books in her mouth

- ◆ sits in your lap and holds head steady
- ◆ turns pages with your help
- ◆ looks at pictures
- ◆ vocalizes and pats the pictures
- ◆ prefers pictures of faces

*What you can do:*

- ◆ hold infants comfortably with a face-to-face gaze
- ◆ follow infant's cues for "more" and "stop"
- ◆ point to and name pictures

## ◆ 12 ~ 18 Months

*Abilities:*

- ◆ sits without support
- ◆ may carry books around with him
- ◆ holds books with help

- ◆ turns the pages of board books, several at a time
- ◆ no longer puts objects in her mouth right away
- ◆ points at pictures with one finger
- ◆ may make the same sound for a particular picture
- ◆ points when he's asked, "Where is...?"
- ◆ turns books right side up
- ◆ gives books to you to read

*What you can do:*

- ◆ respond to her prompting to read books
- ◆ let him control the book
- ◆ be comfortable with her short attention span
- ◆ ask, "Show me the...?" and

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Ghoulishly Good Potato Ghosts

Cooking and creating with recipes provides a wonderful learning opportunity for children. It fosters beginning math skills, fine motor development, language skills, social skills, following directions, and listening skills. In this recipe, children will expand their creativity and imagination, too!

### WHAT YOU NEED:

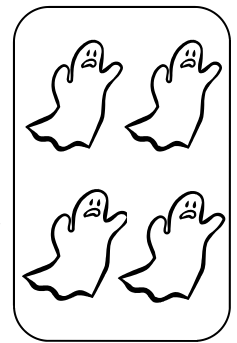
- ◆ nonstick cooking spray
  - ◆ glass baking pan (microwave safe)
  - ◆ 4-8 cups of mashed potatoes (you decide whether you want to make instant from a box or fresh from scratch)
  - ◆ mixing bowl and spoon
  - ◆ 1/2 to 1 cup shredded Jack cheese (or any white cheese)
  - ◆ 1 tbs. butter
  - ◆ 6 tbs. milk
- ◆ small paper plates (one per child)
  - ◆ sliced black olives (for eyes, nose, and mouth, if desired)
  - ◆ spatula
  - ◆ pot holder or oven mitt

### WHAT YOU DO:

1. Everyone who will be participating needs to wash their hands.
2. Spray the cooking spray on the glass baking pan.
3. In a mixing bowl, prepare the mashed potatoes (the amount will depend upon the number of children making "ghosts").
4. Mix in the cheese and butter.
5. Gradually add milk one tablespoon at a time until you have the desired consistency.
6. Give each child about 3/4 to one cup of mashed potatoes

on a paper plate and have them use their hands to mold it into a ghost shape.

7. When they have finished, if they wish, give each child sliced olives to create the face of their ghost.
8. Carefully use the spatula to transfer the ghosts to the baking pan for heating.
9. Microwave on high for 2 minutes (or use a regular oven for 4-6 minutes).
10. Use the spatula to move the ghosts back to the paper plates for serving. Enjoy with a glass of milk or water.



## Books and Songs in Honor of Grandparents

Think about ways you can include storytelling with these books and singing these songs into the plans you make for the day as suggested on the next page.



*Grandma Tells a Story*  
Lois G. Grambling

*Lots of Grandparents*  
Shelley Rotner

*Timothy and Gramps*  
Ron Brooks

*Grandma and Me*  
Neil Ricklen

*Grandpas Are for Finding Worms*

Harriet Ziefert  
*Grandmas Are for Giving Ticks*  
Harriet Ziefert  
*Hooray for Grandparents' Day*  
Nancy Carlson  
*Icy Watermelon* (bilingual)  
Mary Sue Galindo  
*A Kiss for Little Bear*  
Else Holmelund Minarik  
*Lucky Pennies and Hot Chocolate*  
Carol Diggory Shields

**My Grandparents**  
Sung to: *London Bridge*  
By Paula R. Westernen

This is my grandpa yes siree,  
Yes siree, yes siree  
This is my grandma yes siree,

And I love them!  
I like it when they talk with me  
Talk with me, talk with me  
I like it when they read to me  
All my favorite stories!

**My Family is Terrific!**  
Sung to: *The Bear Went Over the Mountain*  
By Paula R. Westernen

My family is terrific!  
My family is wonderful!  
My family is awesome!  
And I love them so!  
And I love them so!  
And I love them so!  
My family is terrific!  
And I love them so!

## Stages of Literacy Development *continued*

let him point to it

### ◆ 18 ~ 24 Months

*Abilities:*

- ◆ turns board book's pages easily, one page at a time
- ◆ carries books around
- ◆ may use books as transitional objects
- ◆ names familiar pictures
- ◆ fills in the words in familiar stories
- ◆ "reads" to dolls or stuffed animals
- ◆ recites parts of well-known stories
- ◆ his attention span is highly variable



- ◆ use books in routines and naptimes
- ◆ ask "What's that?" and give her time to answer
- ◆ pause and let him complete the sentence in books with repeating or familiar lines

### ◆ 24 ~ 36 Months

*Abilities:*

- ◆ learns to handle paper pages
- ◆ goes back and forth in books to find her favorite pictures
- ◆ recites whole phrases, sometimes whole stories
- ◆ he can coordinate text with pictures
- ◆ protests when you get a word wrong in a familiar story
- ◆ reads familiar books to herself

*What you can do:*

- ◆ keep using books in routines

*What you can do:*

- ◆ relate the books you read to toddler's experiences

- ◆ read to toddlers at naptime
- ◆ be willing to read the same story over and over again
- ◆ ask, "Tell me what that is?"
- ◆ relate books to toddler's experiences
- ◆ provide crayons and paper

### ◆ 3 Years and Up

*Abilities:*

- ◆ competent handling of books
- ◆ turns pages of books one at a time
- ◆ listens to longer stories
- ◆ can retell familiar stories
- ◆ understands what text is
- ◆ moves finger along text
- ◆ "writes" name
- ◆ is moving toward letter recognition

*What you can do:*

- ◆ ask, "What's happening?"
- ◆ encourage writing and drawing and have materials available
- ◆ let her tell the story

## Grandparent's Day is September 9th!

The second Saturday of every September is National Grandparents Day which is an opportunity to honor the grandparents in families--or the friends and neighbors who seem like grandparents for children.

Consider having a "Meet My Grandma/Grandpa/Grandparents Day" at your site the week before Grandparent's Day. Here are a few simple suggestions to get you started that will also promote skill

building in the children. Get creative and have fun!

- ◆ Handprint art is always appreciated for making invitations or special cards to give to families.
- ◆ Have the children help you plan and make a special snack.
- ◆ Make fun placemats and place cards for the tables.
- ◆ Encourage the children to introduce their grandparent(s).
- ◆ While they are there, encourage

the grandparents to share what life was like when they were young ~ what kinds of games did they play, where did they live, go to school, their favorite food, what was their favorite family vacation, etc.

- ◆ Make it a warm family time for everyone, whether they have grandparents attending or not!



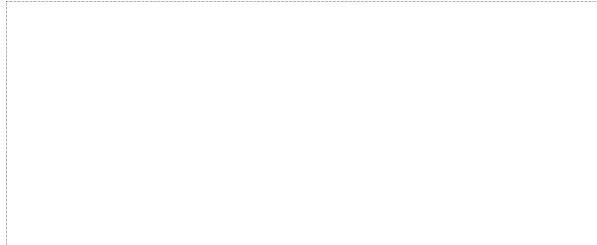


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### Your Help is Needed!

We know what you are going to say ~ we just did an evaluation! You are right and your input was invaluable. Because we are in a new funding cycle and because our funding focus has changed, we need to do another evaluation, so that we can share the results with our funders in February.

In the November/December issue, you will receive an evaluation that is more focused on the content and relevance of the articles and information from July 2007. You will have the opportunity to respond via mail or offer your responses online.

We know how valuable your time is and we greatly appreciate your assistance in meeting our program requirements.

### Your Newsletter Status

It's that time again! We need for you to indicate if you no longer wish to receive the *Ready to Succeed Newsletter for Professionals*. It is particularly critical this time since we are receiving only a limited amount of funding. We need to be able to save costs wherever we can.

Also, if you have Internet capabilities and would prefer to receive the color version of the newsletter online, please contact us. You can register yourself from our website, but please inform us that you no longer need to receive the hard copy in the mail. Simply visit the **Ready to Succeed** web pages and the link for the newsletter will be on top of the left column menu bar. Go to <http://ceplacer.ucdavis.edu> and click on **Ready to Succeed!**

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