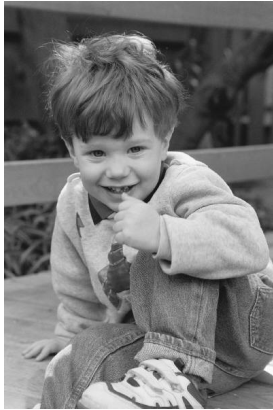


# Ready to Succeed

An Early Literacy and School Readiness Newsletter for Professionals

## Toddler Time

We know the importance of helping children acquire the early skills necessary for becoming successful readers later on. There are many simple, everyday things child care professionals can do to build a foundation for reading, vocabulary, and other language skills in toddlers.



Make up fictional tales or tell stories from your own childhood. Talk about the stories and encourage questions from the toddler.

- ✓ **Read, read, read ~** It is the single most important way to ensure later school success. Find a time, or two, or three in the daily schedule to read to toddlers.
- ✓ **Tell stories ~** Toddlers benefit from hearing your voice and can feel your enthusiasm.
- ✓ **Talk, talk, talk ~** Take the time to talk to toddlers about everyday things. Ask questions, answer questions. Discuss the things you see and hear and what you are doing.
- ✓ **Provide lots of books and reading materials ~** Toddlers benefit from the exposure to books. They learn that books are enjoyable and interesting. The learn that books contain letters, words, and pictures and will begin to learn that
- you turn the pages and read from left to right.
- ✓ **Provide paper and crayons ~** Give toddlers crayons and sheets of paper to scribble and draw on. Be sure the children see you writing.
- ✓ **Limit television ~** Don't use TV as a babysitter. Limit the amount of time spent watching to just an occasional few shows. View TV together and talk about what you see. There is new research that suggests watching television in the early years leads to inattentiveness later on.
- ✓ **Visit the library ~** Even toddlers enjoy a visit to the library. Make it a

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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.

# Literacy Opportunities Are Everywhere

Let's face it ~ fitting the many things that are required of you into the teaching day can be a challenge! There are only so many hours and after you subtract the time for hand washing, toileting, meals, rest time, and transitions, there may not seem as though there's a lot of time left for teaching.

We know it's important to foster the children's literacy development, so it is natural to have stories and singing scheduled into the day. It is also important to find ways of emphasizing literacy development in the other routine activities you do each day. The following are a few simple ideas to get you started:

- **Recipes** ~ the next time you try a new recipe, be sure to let the children see you reading the directions or even read them



out loud. It is important for them to see that we must also read for information.

- **Game directions** ~ when you are explaining how to play a game, have the directions on a sheet of paper so that the children can see you purposefully reading the steps in the process. Explain that in order to know how to play it's important to read the information about the game.



- **Letter search** ~ look for ways to have children notice letters and numbers as they are playing. Ask them to point out and name the ones they know.

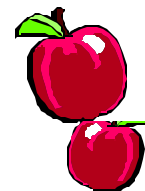


- **Placemats** ~ an easy way to help children practice letter recognition is to write out or cut and paste letters on large

construction paper. Cover the paper with clear self-adhesive paper or laminate. While children are having snack or lunch they can name and discuss the letters. Also, you can talk about the foods they are eating that start with the letters on their placemat.



- **Connect events to a book you've read** ~ for example, when you are sitting down for snack or lunch you might say, "These apples sure taste good! Do you remember the story we read about..." Have a discussion about their recollections from the book. Making a connection between the story you read and real life is an important skill for helping children learn.



## What to Read to Toddlers *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

habit to check out books. Have the children help you.

- ✓ **Label items** ~ label the items in the room. Point out the letters that make up the words. Have the children's names on display and talk about the letters.
- ✓ **Point out words** ~

Show toddlers words such as those on a stop sign, school signs, newspapers, recipes, letters, etc. Talk about the shapes of letters.



toddlers learn new sounds and words. The repetitive nature of children's songs makes it easy for toddlers to repeat what they hear.

- ✓ **Sing songs and tell poems** ~ The rhyming language of songs and poems helps

*Do you have additional ideas for promoting the literacy development of toddlers? We would love to hear more "tried and true" suggestions.*

# Appreciating Art Can Promote Literacy



Whether you visit a museum, walk through a sculpture garden, or look at the architecture in your hometown,

you prepare children to tap into abilities they'll need later in life. By encouraging children to analyze what they see, you help them develop their imagination, critical thinking skills, and powers of observation. You also broaden their horizons and can inspire them to create masterpieces of their own. Reading is Fundamental (RIF) offers the following suggestions for your next artistic field trip:

## BEFORE YOU GO:

- Look through art books at your local library and check out a few that will catch a child's eye. Give the children an opportunity to look

through them.

- Identify a museum in your area that is appropriate for children. Call the museum's education office if you have questions or concerns.
- If the museum has a website, review the collection online to determine which pieces or collections will be age-appropriate and of the most interest to the children.

## WHILE YOU ARE THERE:

- Allow the children to explore (staying with them, of course). Don't hurry them from one piece to another.
- Discuss the background information about the artwork (time/era of the action in the piece, the artist's life, the technique used, etc.)
- Make comparisons and

connections between paintings and children's experiences. Encourage children to develop a personal connection to the art.

- Compare works to one another and help develop an appreciation for styles, techniques, or tools the artists used to create their work.

## AFTER THE VISIT:

- Learn more about the artists, places, and periods in history featured in the artwork. Find out where the artist grew up and what he or she looked like. You can also discover whether the place in the artwork really exists, where it is, and how far it is from home.
- Encourage the children to tell

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Fun With Finger Paint



Here's a fun and creative way for children to express their artistic talents.

This simple recipe for washable paints will keep your little artists well supplied.

## WHAT YOU NEED:

- sugar
- cornstarch
- saucepan
- cold water
- large spoon
- liquid dish soap
- food coloring or washable tempera paint

containers for storing large white paper

## WHAT YOU DO:

- Mix 2 tablespoons of sugar and 1/3 cup of cornstarch in a saucepan.
- Slowly add 2 cups of cold water.
- Cook over low heat for 5 minutes, stirring constantly until the mixture is a clear, smooth gel.
- When its cool, stir in 1/4 cup of liquid dishwashing soap.
- Scoop into plastic containers, and stir in food coloring drops or tempera paints to make the colors you choose.
- Allow the children to select the paint colors they want to use.
- Have fun painting! Talk about the colors, the shapes, the thickness of the lines, etc.
- Dry the artwork in a safe place.
- After the painting is dry, ask the children to tell you the story of what's happening in their artwork.
- Write out the story on a separate sheet of paper to display with their creation. Be sensitive to the fact that not all children want to have something added their creation by someone else.

## Books of All Kinds

### FOR TODDLERS

*Where's Spot?*

Eric Hill

*Miss Spider's ABC*

David Kirk

*My Colors*

Rebecca Emberley

*Goodnight Moon*

Margaret Wise Brown

*Silly Sally*

Audrey Wood

*Fish Eyes*

Lois Ehlert

*Jamberry*

Bruce Degen

*Book! Book! Book!*

Deborah Bruss

*Let's Go Visiting*

Sue Williams

*Titch*

Pat Hutchins

### BY BRIAN WILDSMITH

*Squirrels*

*Zoo Animals*

*Farm Animals*

*If I Were You*

*Animal Colors*

*All Fall Down*

*Animals to Count*

*Brian Wildsmith's ABC*

*Brian Wildsmith's Mother Goose*

*Brian Wildsmith's Opposites*



### UNIQUE ILLUSTRATIONS

*Window Music*

Anastasia Suen

*How Are You Peeling? Foods With*

*Moods*

Saxton Freymann & Joost

Elffers

*Little Miss Spider: Sunny Patch School*

David Kirk

*Sally Goes to the Beach*

Stephen Huneck

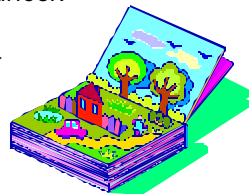
*Dinosaur Bones*

Bob Barner

*Snowballs*

Lois Ehlert

*Flower Garden*



Eve Bunting  
*It's Mine!*

Leo Lionni  
*Farmers' Market*

Paul Brett Johnson

*Down by the Cool of the Pool*

Tony Mitton

### SUMMER

*Watermelon Day*

Kathi Appelt

*Canoe Days*

Gary Paulsen

*Sunflower House*

Eve Bunting

*Alaska's 12 Days of Summer*

Pat Chamberlin-Calamar

*Four Friends in Summer*

Tomie dePaola

*A Summery Saturday Morning*

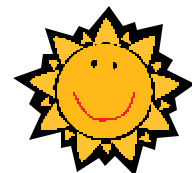
Margaret Mahy

*Grandma Summer*

Harley Jessup


*One Summer Day*

Kim Lewis



## Appreciating Art continued

you about what they saw, enjoyed, learned, or didn't like. Write it down for them. Send the children's comments to the museum staff. Help the children write a thank you letter, especially if they really enjoyed it.

 Give the children opportunities to work in different media. For example, they can make a sculpture by carving a bar of soap or molding a piece of clay. They can add finishing touches with paint or by gluing on small objects like paper clips, pompoms, or leaves. Spilt open grocery bags or

cardboard boxes to provide new textures for drawing. Encourage the children to use unusual paint brushes ~ try applying paint with plastic bags, sponges, toothbrushes, or even fruits and vegetables. Make three-dimensional art with toothpaste, glue, or other substances.



Children's book author and illustrator Brian Wildsmith believes that children should be introduced to art and culture

early. He believes that children are better able to understand "difficult art" than some adults like to admit. Wildsmith uses the illustrations in his books to do just that. He states, "Picture books give an opportunity for a marriage between painting and illustrating, and the challenge of designing each page is very stimulating. I believe that beautiful picture books of the right kind are vitally important in subconsciously forming a child's visual appreciation, which will bear fruit in later life."

Look for a list of children's books by Brian Wildsmith in the "Books of All Kinds" listed above.

## Turn Off the TV...Tune Into Family Fun!



*Children used stamps to decorate paper in the "Hats Off" booth.*



*The stringless kites were a big hit in the "Let's Go Fly a Kite" booth.*

In celebration of National TV-Turn Off Week we conducted the second annual

### "Turn Off the TV...Tune Into Family Fun"

at the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville. Families and child care programs came from all over the county to participate in fun, healthy alternatives to watching television. Children made crafts, played games, mastered the obstacle course, had stories read to them, learned poems, sang songs, petted rabbits, used their senses, watched eggs hatching, planted beans - - there was something for everyone! Many of the families also made a commitment to watching less or no television during the week. Thank you to the more than 500 people who attended and enjoyed this phenomenal event!



*Inspecting lady bugs was one activity in the "Garden of Good Eating".*



*At "The Poem Party" station children learned new poems.*

## Friday "Fun" Dango - An Adventure for Kids and Families!

In a collaborative effort between Placer County Office of Education Child Development Services, Sierra Preschool, Chana High School Outreach Center, Placer County Health and Human Services, and UC Cooperative Extension, another hugely successful event for families and child care programs was held at



*Chana High School Drum Team*

the Parkside Church facility in Auburn. **Friday "Fun" Dango ~ An Adventure for Kids and Families** provided fun-filled opportunities for children around literacy, nutrition, and physical fitness. There were numerous hands-on craft activities as well as colorful stage demonstrations, games, puppet shows, music and movement, an obstacle course, storytelling, and the ever-popular Scholastic Book Faire. The

evening session included special guest speaker Dr. Robert MacKenzie, noted author and parent educator who spoke on the importance of setting limits with children. Nearly 800 people attended this exciting event that was made possible with the generous support from the Mother Lode Foundation and First Five Placer County.



*"Go, Glow, and Grow" was the nutritious message for children with making "growing" paper chains.*



*Bubbles, bubbles, bubbles ...*

## Ready to Succeed

### University of California Cooperative Extension

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Web: <http://ceplacer.ucdavis.edu>  
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Serving Placer County  
Since 1917



Ready to Succeed is supported  
locally by:



## Mark Your Calendars!

Looking for ways to earn professional growth hours this summer? We are offering a "Let's Read Together" Summer Afternoon Workshop Series for early childhood educators.

### Infant Care Providers (0-18 month olds)

*My First Real Mother Goose*

June 23rd ~ deadline to register June 21st  
2:00 ~ 3:30 pm  
Loomis Library

### Toddler Care Providers (18-36 month olds)

*Growing Vegetable Soup*

June 30th ~ deadline to register June 28th  
2:00 ~ 3:30 pm  
Loomis Library

### Preschool Providers (3-5 year olds)

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

July 7th ~ deadline to register July 5th  
2:00 ~ 3:30 pm  
Loomis Library

Join us for these fun, interactive workshops! Learn techniques and activities that will promote the literacy development of the children in the three age ranges. Pre-registered participants will receive a new copy of the featured book.

### **Pre-registration is required ~ space is limited!**

Contact our office at 530 889-7350 to register by phone or register online by visiting the Ready to Succeed web pages at <http://ceplacer.ucdavis.edu>.

**Sharon K. Junge**  
County Director

**Paula R. Anderson**  
Program Representative

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