

## Monthly Message :

# LIBRARIES GROW A LOVE FOR LEARNING

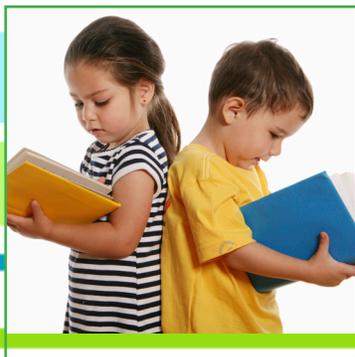
From dinosaurs to planets, the library is home to thousands of books itching for young readers to explore. The early years of a child's life are important for their development later in life and libraries allow children to learn about what interests them. You can also connect with other families, access free resources such as e-books and the internet, and grow in your knowledge as your child's first and best teacher. Staff members can even help you identify resources and play-based experiences to try at home.

The local public library provides a variety of services that can help children practice the skills they will need to start school ready to learn. Libraries offer access to a wide selection of age appropriate books he or she can grow with as their interests change. Children who read a lot, know a lot. Exposure to books helps them expand their understanding of the world around them and apply that knowledge to their lives.

So what can libraries offer you? First, of course, are the books. Libraries house collections of carefully selected children's materials that families can borrow for use in their own home. Reading to your child helps develop important early literacy skills children need in order to learn to read. Early literacy is not about teaching your child to read but developing necessary skills to be a successful reader in the future by taking time now to draw, talk, sing, play, and read.



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### Practicing Early Reading Skills

- Tell stories together, encourage pretend play, let your child be a storyteller.
- Help your child identify the first letter in his name and find it in books, signs, and food labels.
- Help your child discover how to hold a book and turn the pages.
- Sing songs, play games, and share rhymes to help your child play with the sounds in words.
- Find books that match her interests.
- Teach him the specific names of things, like fruits at the grocery store.

Most libraries also present programming for all ages that benefit the whole family. Many librarians share tips and information during storytime about how the activities are beneficial for the development of the child and model activities that caregivers can do at home. Librarians can also be found out in their community—doing storytimes at preschools and daycares and partnering with their local Community Early Childhood Council. Some libraries even offer sessions just for caregivers about how they can help their child develop the skills they will need to learn to read—and to love reading. Time spent reading allows children to bond with their caregiver and create positive associations with reading. Exposing your child to libraries can help them become fond and familiar places your child enjoys visiting.

## story time

### PROGRAMS AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

- Check out a baby lapsit program where babies (6-18 months) and caregivers are introduced to books, nursery rhymes, and songs in a fun, supportive setting.
- Go for Storyhours (2-5 years) to help your child practice listening and playing in groups in a structured setting.
- Ask if your library has an early literacy calendar that suggests simple daily at home activities, books and local library events to attend.
- Contact your local public library to find out what resources and services they offer for families with young children. A directory of all of the public libraries in the state can be found on the website of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives: <http://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/Pages/LibraryDirectory>

## Suggested Reading

### **Babies ( 0-12 months)**

- Explores books by chewing, throwing, and touching.
- Recognizes songs and rhymes.
- Drawn to pictures and photographs.
- Choose board, cloth or vinyl books and touch and feel books.

**READ:** *Pat the Bunny, Global Babies, The Cat in the Hat*

### **Toddlers (1-3 years)**

- Enjoys simple and short stories, familiar routines about everyday life, and interactive books.
- Choose lift the flap, pop-ups and books with sound.

**READ:** *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Dear Zoo*

### **Preschool (3-5 years)**

- Enjoys retelling stories, reading about his interests, and laughing at silly books.
- Choose non-fiction, longer books. Ask questions about the characters, move fingers under words as your read, and let him “read” familiar stories to you.

**READ:** *Chrysanthemum, Morgan Plays Soccer, Goodnight Gorilla, Press Here*