



Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida, Inc.

Family Literacy Gazette

August



School Days

It is hard to believe that school is starting, again. VPK classrooms are filling up with wonderful, happy, excited children who are ready to learn. Some children have a difficult time returning to the classroom. Here are some fun books you and your children can read together to help transition from summer time at home to the learning environment. Check these books out at your local library:

- Wemberly Worried* by Kevin Henkes
- Fluffy Goes to School* by Kate McMullan

Sumi's First Day of School
by Juong Un Kim

Emily's First 100 Days of School
by Rosemary Wells

Little Brown Bear Won't Go to School
by Jane Dyer

Biscuit Goes to School
by Satin Capucilli

Morris Goes to School by B. Wiseman

When Kangaroo Goes to School
by Sonia Levitin

Froggy Goes to School
by Jonathan London

Little Critter: Fun At School With Little Critter
by Mercer Mayer

If You Take a Mouse to School
by Laura Numeroff

When Dinosaurs Go to School
by Linda Martin

Curious George's First Day of School
by H.A. Rey

Vera's First Day of School
by Vera Rosenberry

These are just a few titles you may want to read together. The important thing is reading as a family. Have fun, and have a good Pre-K year!



ELC of Northwest Florida
703 W. 15 Street, Suite A
Panama City, FL 32401
1.850.747.5400
www.elcnwf.org

Local Library Information

Bay County- 850-522-2100
Books for Babies: Tuesday 9:30
Terrific Tots: Tuesday 10:30
Preschool Story Time: 10:30
Hours: M. - W. 9:00-8:00
Th. - Sat. 9:00-5:00

Calhoun County- 850-674-8773
Story Time: Th. & Sat. 10:00
Hours: M. 10:00-7:00
T. & W. 10:00-6:00
Th. 10:00-7:00
Sat. 9:00-3:00

Franklin County- 850-670-8151
Story Adventure: Th. 10:00
Hours: T. - Th. 10:00-6:00
F. 11:00- 7:00

Gulf County- 850-229-8879
Hours: M. & T. 10:00-8:00
Th. & F. 10:00- 6:00
Sat. 10:00- 4:00

Holmes County- 850-547-3573
Story Time: F. 10:00
Hours: T. - F. 8:00-5:00
Sat. 8:00-12:00

Jackson County- 850-482-9631
Story Time: T. 9:30 & 11:00
Hours: M. - Th. 9:00-8:00
F. 9:00- 6:00
Sat. 9:00- 3:00

Washington County- 850-638-1314
Story Time: Th. 10:30
Hours: M. - Th. 9:00- 6:00
F. 9:00- 1:00

A Fingerplay

Open Shut Them

- Open, Shut them.
- Open, Shut them.
- Give a little clap.
- Open, Shut them.
- Open, Shut them.

Place them in your lap.

- Creep them, creep them.
- Creep them, creep them
- Right up to your chin.
- Open wide your little mouth,
- But do not let them in!
- Have fun doing this fingerplay together. You just open and

shut your hands, then clap.

- Next you open and shut your hands and lay them in your lap.
- Then, you let your fingers walk up the front of you to your chin.
- Last, you open your mouth wide and quickly put your hands behind your back.

Blocks

Blocks are so much fun for everyone, young and old. Block play is a very important part of growth. Children develop eye—hand coordination and fine and gross motor skills. Blocks allow children the opportunity to randomly build, and see what the outcome of their building will be. Imagination and anticipation are all a part of the learning experience provided through block play. Oddly enough, these very skills are important to reading. Eye muscles must be developed, eye-hand coordination must be acquired, imagination and anticipation are all things which help children

learn to read.

Did you know that blocks don't have to be made of wood? Blocks may be bought in foam, cardboard, and wood.

You can also make your own blocks for block play at home. This is how you do it:

Materials:

Containers, such as empty boxes, plastic containers, or round containers. These containers can be cereal boxes, oatmeal boxes, the box toothpaste comes in, any box of any size. The small individual size cereal boxes are great. You can even use empty

match boxes.

Tape

Wrapping paper, if you wish.

Glue

Method:

Empty the boxes

Tape the ends shut

Cover with wrapping paper (if you want to fancy them up a little)

Then, you sit on the floor with your child and build to your hearts content. You would be surprised at what you can build with some simple boxes.



When to Start

Parents often ask, "When do I start teaching my child to read?" The answer is very simple....

You start teaching your child to read the day he/she is born!

You hold your child in your arms and you sing to him/her. Then, you hold a book and talk about, or read the book.

Newborn children don't see clearly, but they can hear. When your child listens to you sing and read he/she begins to hear the rhythmic sound of language.

Every day, hold your child and read to him/her. Every day!

Toddlers will bring you their favorite book. When children become verbal

they will tell you which book they want you to read. Soon you will be able to talk about the books you read.

So, the answer to "When do I start teaching my child to read?" is, every day from the day they are born until they think they are too old to read with the family. Hopefully, they will become life long readers.

For the Love of Language

By Bonnie Blagojevic

Words to love, words to SHARE,

Words touch HEARTS everywhere!

Words that make you LAUGH or cry,

Words that make you WONDER why.

Thoughtful words, STRONG, or kind.

Words that ECHO in your mind.

RICHER than the richest treasure,

Words to bring you JOY forever!

A simple poem which says a lot. Copy this poem and put it on the refrigerator. When you look at it think about the words you use when you speak with and to your children. Consider the beauty of our language, and consider the words you are teaching your children.

Vocabulary is built through exposure to language. Language experiences come through talking, reading, and listening.

Language is developed through opportunities to express feelings, to describe objects or surroundings, to discuss facts, etc.

The important thing, is to use language which enlightens and lifts a child. Children love to talk, and it is important to respond to their comments. This response helps to validate their thoughts and helps to build their language skills.