



# Winter Early Literacy Newsletter



## Celebrating Winter

With winter comes shorter days and colder temperatures. What better way to welcome this change than to cuddle up and read a good book? Books about animals are often a hit with young children. Here are some books about animals in winter to enjoy.



**First Snow in the Woods:**  
**A photographic fantasy**  
by Carl Sams II  
**Baby Polar**  
by Yannick Murphy

**Over in the Arctic:**  
**Where the cold winds blow**  
by Marianne Berkes

### Winter

By Ron Hirschi

### The Emperor's Egg

By Martin Jenkins

### Grandmother Winter

By Phyllis Root

### Little Snow Goose

By Emily Hawkins

### Little Caribou

By Sarah Fox-Davies

### Snow Comes to the Farm

By Nathaniel Tripp

### The Hat

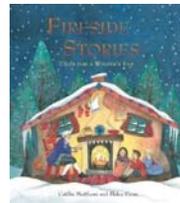
By Jan Brett

### In the Snow

By Sharon Denlow

**Where is Home, Little Pip?** By Karma Wilson

Learn more about winter celebrations and winter tales from around the world with these books:



**Fireside Stories: Tales for a winter's eve**

J 398.209 Matthews

**We Celebrate Winter**

J 394.2 Kalman

**Winter: December, January, February**

J 394.261 Senker

### Early Literacy Tip

Helping your child to put words to feelings develops vocabulary in a meaningful way. You can talk not only about your child's feelings but about yours as well. Children can understand the words long before they can say them.

From The early Literacy Kit by Betsy Diamant-Cohen & Saroj Ghoting (ALA Editions, 2009)

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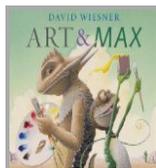
## Staff Favorites

Curtis'  
Pick:



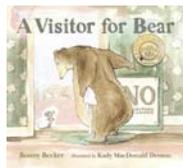
Please Take Me for a Walk by Susan Gal

Dana's  
Pick:



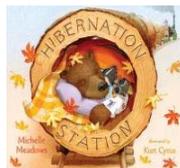
Art and Max by David Weisner

Heidi's  
Pick:



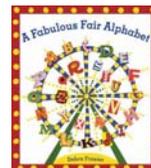
A Visitor for Bear by Bonny Becker

Kristin's  
Pick:



Hibernation Station by Michelle Meadows

Peik-Kuan's  
Pick:



A Fabulous Fair Alphabet by Debra Frasier

Robin's  
Pick:



Mad at Mommy by Komako Sakai

Ruth Rose's  
Pick:

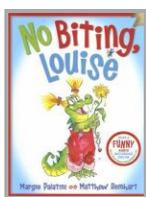


Dinosaur vs. The Potty by Bob Shea

# Self Regulation: A Critical Skill

Much new research has been buzzing around children's ability to control their impulses and manage their behavior. The results are showing that self regulation has a very important impact on a child's ability to learn.

Children who have good self regulation skills can better manage their emotions and behavior, and so they are better able to pay attention, which leads to greater success in school.



Reading stories about characters learning self control is one way for children to start to identify with self regulation strategies.

Playing games is another way to help foster this skill in young children.

“Reading storybooks with preschoolers promotes self-regulation, not just because it fosters language development, but because children's stories are filled with characters who model effective self-regulatory strategies”

Laura Berk, from NPR's article “Old-fashioned Play Builds Serious Skills” by Alix Spiegel

Here are some books to explore :

**It's Hard to be Five: Learning how to work my control panel** by Jamie Lee Curits

**Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse** by Kevin Henkes

**The Carrot Seed** by Ruth Krauss

**Katie Loves the Kittens** by John Himmelman

**Moose of Course** by Lynne Plourde

**Elbert's Bad Word** by Audrey Wood

**Will Sheila Share?** by Elivia Savadier

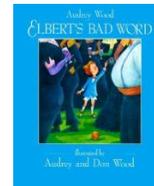
**No Biting, Louise** by Margie Palatani

**David Goes to School** by David Shannon

**When Sophie Gets Angry—Really, Really Angry** by Molly Bang

**No Biting** by Karen Katz

**The Little Engine That Could** by Watty Piper



## Games to play

Have fun with these classic games that can also help develop a child's ability to self regulate:

### Freeze

Put on some music, and give the direction to dance until the music stops. When the music stops, you will “freeze”, and then resume dancing only when you hear the music come on again. Children who can stop their bodies are also demonstrating that they can listen to directions.

### Red Light, Green Light.

Stand with your back against the children, and have the children line up side by side some distance away from you. When you say “green light”, the

children can sneak up on you. When you turn around and say “red light”, they must freeze in place. Those who did not stop in time will be the “yellow lights”, and walk in place until the “green light” comes on again. Continue the game until someone reaches you.

### Simon Says

Ask the children to copy your actions ONLY when they hear you say “Simon says”! For example, “Simon says touch your nose!” If children touch their noses when you say, “touch your nose”, they will have to skip a turn or sit out the rest of the game. This requires the children to really concentrate on listening and watching you before they act!

### Do the Opposite

Ask the children to dance slowly to a fast song, and dance quickly to a slow song. This will require children to stop long enough to determine if the music is fast or slow, and then make their bodies do the opposite. Very tricky!

### Action Song

Ask the children to follow the directions in the following song -

Walking, walking,

Walking, walking.

Hop, hop, hop.

Hop, hop, hop.

Running, running, running.

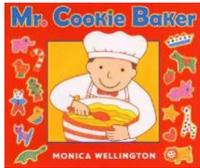
Running, running, running.

Now we stop, now we stop!



# Cookies Anyone?

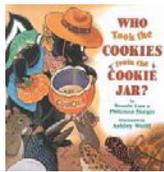
Baking cookies is a great way to bring warmth into a home during the winter. Here are some picture books about cookies to enjoy while you bake with your child.



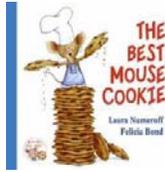
**Mr. Cookie Baker** by Monica Wellington



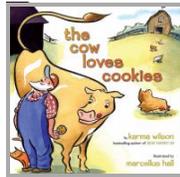
**Fortune Cookies Fortunes** by Grace Lin



**Who Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?** by Bonnie Lass & Philemon Sturges



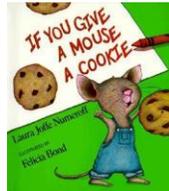
**The Best Mouse Cookie** by Laura Numeroff



**The Cow Loves Cookies** by Karma Wilson



**The Gingerbread Friends** by Jan Brett



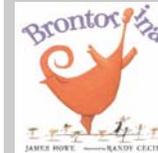
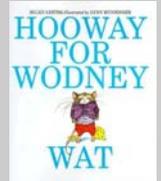
**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie** by Laura Numeroff

# I Like Myself!



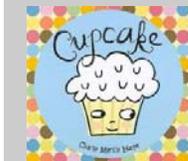
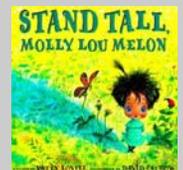
**Call Me Gorgeous!** by Giles Milton

*Hooway for Wodney Wat* by Helen Lester



**Brontorina** by James Howe

*Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon* by Patty Lovell



**Cupcake: A journey to special** by Charise Harper

# Sending your love, writing letters

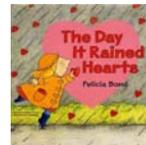
Send some "love" or well wishes this season, and help your child discover the pleasure of making a card and sending it to relatives and friends. This will provide a great opportunity for children to practice their fine motor skills to form letters and pictures, and their narrative skills to tell you what they want to say to grandma. Even if they can't write yet, they will learn the use of print (written language) as a form of communication.

These books may inspire some letter-writing:

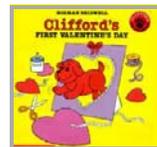


**Bunny Mail** by Rosemary Wells

**The Day It Rained Hearts** by Felicia Bond



**Clifford's First Valentine Day** by Norman Bridwell



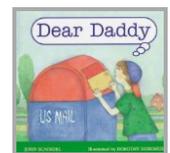
**Love, Lizzie: Letters to a military mom** by Lisa McElroy



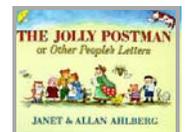
**Dear Juno** by Suyong Pak



**Dear Daddy** by John Schindel



**The Jolly Postman, or Other People's Letters** by Janet & Allan Ahberg



"Being familiar with printed language helps children feel comfortable with books and understand that print is useful"

Source: Every Child Ready to Read Brochure

# Signing with Young Children

There are many benefits to using sign language with babies and young children, including:

- Reducing frustration in a child who cannot, or has difficulty, communicating his/her needs.
- Increasing retention of new information and language by adding a kinesthetic component to learning ( movement).
- Developing the small muscles necessary for learning to write.
- Developing visual skills for reading print ( being able to see that the letter "B" is different from the letter "E").
- Acquiring sign language as a second language.

Furthermore, parents who use sign language with their hearing children have been observed to focus more on communicating with their children. They also tend to verbally elaborate more on what the child is communicating through signs - child signs "more" , and the parent may say, "Oh, you want more juice? Let's pour some more into your cup!" In this way, the parent is helping develop and expand the child's language abilities. (source: Zero to Three website)

For more information about signing with babies, please come to the next free program on parenting put on by Growing Families Together.

## Sign with Your Baby (birth to 16 months)



Learn to communicate with your baby before he/she can talk!

Wednesday, January 26th. 2011

10:00—11:30a.m.

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

main meeting room

OR

Saturday, January 29th. 2011

10:30a.m.—Noon

Albany Public Library

\*Refreshments and childcare provided



## Growing Families Together

### Free Programs on Parenting

Sponsored by Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, Albany Public Library, Samaritan Health Services, LBCC, City of Corvallis Parks & Recreation, Albany Parks & Recreation, and OSU Extension.

## Resources for Parents, Caregivers, and Educators

### Books:

*Little Beauty* - E Browne, Anthony

*I Can Sign My ABCs* - E Chaplin, Susan

*The Deaf Musicians* - E Seeger, Pete

*The Best Worst Brother* - E Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie

*Let's Sign!* - J 419 Ault



*My First Book of Sign Language* - J 419 Holub

*Koko Love! Conversations with a signing gorilla* - J 599.884 Patterson

*Clothes = Ropa* - J 419 Petelins

*Silly Sue: Sign language for actions* - J 419 Prochova

*The Handmade Alphabet* - J 419 Rankin

*Sesame Street Sign Language Fun* - J 419 Sesame St

*Signing Fun: American Sign Language vocabulary, phrases, games and activities* - J 419 Warner

*Piggyback Songs to Sign* - J 782.4208 Waren



*Sign Language for Babies & Toddlers* - 649.122 Brown



DVDs (filed in the Juvenile non-fiction area)

*Baby Signing Time!* - J 419 Baby

*Signing Time!* - J 419 Signing

*Baby's First Signs* - J 419 Votry

*We Sign*—J 419 We



### Websites:

[www.sproutonline.com/sprout/activities](http://www.sproutonline.com/sprout/activities)

[www.squidoo.com/signlanguagesongs](http://www.squidoo.com/signlanguagesongs)

[www.babies-and-sign-language.com](http://www.babies-and-sign-language.com)

# Rhyme Time

## Little Penguin

I'm a Little Penguin,  
(place arms down by side)  
Black and white.  
(put out left hand, then right hand)  
I waddle to the left,  
(waddle left)  
I waddle to the right.  
(waddle right)

I can't fly,  
(make flying motion while shaking head)  
But I can swim.  
(make swimming motion)  
So I waddle to the water,  
(waddle forward)  
And I jump right in!  
(pretend to jump in water!)



## Chubby Little Snowman



A chubby little snowman  
Had a carrot nose  
Along came a bunny  
And what do you suppose?  
That hungry little bunny  
Looking for his lunch  
Ate that snowman's carrot nose  
Nibble, nibble, crunch!

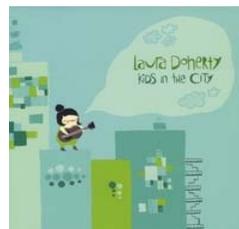
## Website Spotlight



[www.storyblocks.org](http://www.storyblocks.org)

This website features live action videos of people performing various children's rhymes and finger-plays, such as the Itsy Bitsy Spider and Choo Choo Train. There are also a few rhymes in Spanish, such as Los Elefantes and De Colores.

## Music Pick



**Kids in the City**  
(Laura Doherty)

Laura is the director of the Wiggleworms program at the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago. Her tunes are catchy and you might recognize her voice from many of the songs we feature in storytime at the library!

## Parenting Picks



**Simplicity Parenting:**  
using the extraordinary  
power of less to raise  
calmer, happier, and  
more secure kids

by Kim John Payne with  
Lisa M. Ross.



**How Do You Tuck in  
a Superhero?**

by Rachel Balducci



**The Essential First  
Year**

by Penelope Leach



**Instinctive Parenting:**  
trusting ourselves to  
raise good kids

by Ada Calhoun

## Something Yummy! Algo Sabroso

A nutrition education program  
offered in partnership with OSU  
Extension Services.

Please join us in the storytime room  
at the Corvallis-Benton County Public  
Library, **third week** of the month:

**Mondays 7-7:30pm**

**Tuesdays through Thursdays  
10:30-11am.**

\*Flyer with specific dates is available  
at the Corvallis-Benton County Public  
Library.



645 NW Monroe Ave.  
Corvallis OR 97330  
Phone: 541-766-6794  
www.thebestlibrary.net

"Bringing people and information together"



Corvallis-Benton County Library is on Facebook.

Become a Fan! Visit:

<http://www.facebook.com/cbcpl>



Visit the Birth to Six Blog

[www.corvallislibrarybirthtosix.blogspot.com](http://www.corvallislibrarybirthtosix.blogspot.com)



Twitter.com/corvallislib

## R.E.A.D. :

### Reading Education Assistance Dogs

R.E.A.D. dogs are registered therapy animals who volunteer with their owner/handlers as a team. The dogs provide a non-threatening environment for beginning readers to practice their reading skills. The dogs do not judge, laugh, or criticize, thus allowing children to relax and proceed at their own pace.

The handlers are skilled facilitators who provide support while the child gets the supervised practice necessary to build vocabulary, increase understanding of the material and gain fluency as a reader.

**Drop-in sessions. No registration is required. Permission slips are needed.**

For further information please call the Youth Reference Desk at 541-766-6794

Read a good book to a good dog!

**Children ages 5-9**

**Thursday**  
**3:30-4:30 p.m.**  
**January 13 & 27**  
**February 10 & 24**  
**March 10 & 24**  
**April 14 & 28**

**Saturday**  
**11:00 a.m. — Noon**  
**January 22**  
**February 19**  
**March 19**  
**April 23**

## La Fiesta de su Biblioteca

A bilingual English / Spanish storytime program for families. Songs, stories, crafts, and food. Children of all ages are welcome.

**3rd Saturdays of the month**

**11:00am—Noon**

**January 15th / 15 de Enero**

(theme: Winter/ Invierno)

Make a snowman / Haga un Muñeco de nieve

**February 19th / 19 de Febrero**

(theme: Animals/ Los Animales)

Make a paper puppet / Haga un titere de papel

**March 19th / 19 de Marzo**

(theme: Spring / Primavera)

Make a spring lamb / Haga un corderito de primavera

## Man With the Yellow Hat

A storytime for dads (or granddads, uncles, male caregivers, father figures) and their children ages 3 years old and younger. Come join us for music, rhymes, books, and early literacy information on the [first Saturday of the month](#), at 11:00 a.m. in the storytime room at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. (\* No storytime on January 1st, 2011)

## Booklists, music, and more

Check out the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library's *Birth to Six* website. You will find book suggestions on selected topics, books read at storytime (at the Corvallis branch), featured new books and music CDs, websites for young children, and other literacy resources. Go to [www.thebestlibrary.net/birthtosix](http://www.thebestlibrary.net/birthtosix), and click on "Find more suggestions here..." on the bottom of the page. This will take you to LibGuides at Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. You can click on the different blue folder tabs at the top of the page for further options.