Why Is Early Literacy Important?

It is critical to help young children be ready for school by working with them to develop early literacy and learning skills. Because strong reading skills form the basis for learning in all subjects, it is important to identify those who struggle with reading as early as possible. Children who have been read to at home come to school with important early literacy skills. They are prepared to learn to read and write. Children who have not had many experiences listening to books read aloud or talking about books typically start school with poor early literacy skills. Give your child every advantage towards academic success by reading with them.

The Science Behind Early Literacy

A child’s brain is NOT a smaller version of an adult brain. The neurons in a young child’s brain are not fully insulated yet and are still moving into position. Synapse development is exploding during childhood, especially during the first two years of life. A synapse contains a small gap separating neurons. Information from one neuron flows to another neuron across a synapse. According to the American Library Association, "current research on early literacy and brain development indicates that it is never too early to prepare children for success as readers. Parents of newborns, toddlers, and preschoolers must be informed of their critical role as their children’s first teacher."
Check out these great titles in the Haywood County Public Library collection!

**Gamble, Adam.** *Good Night Unicorns*

**Garcia, Emma.** *Chugga Chugga Choo Choo*

**Global Fund for Children.** *American Babies*

**Global Fund for Children.** *Global Babies*

**Gomi, Taro.** *Mommy! Mommy!*

**Hill, Eric.** *Spot Goes to the Farm*

**Ishida, Sanae.** *Sumo Counting*

**Ishida, Sanae.** *Sumo Opposites*

**Jeffers, Oliver.** *It Wasn’t Me*

**Katz, Karen.** *Buzz, Buzz, Baby!* (and other titles)

**Katz, Karen.** *Counting Kisses*

**Kubler, Annie.** *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*

**Leedy, Loreen.** *Step by Step*

**Lewison, Wendy Cheyette.** *Raindrop, Plop!*

**Linthenthal, Peter.** *Look at Baby’s House*

**Lobel, Anita.** *Hello, Day!*

**Martin Jr., Bill.** *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* (and other titles)

**McBratney, Sam.** *Guess How Much I Love You*

**Parr, Todd.** *The Bedtime Book* (and other titles)

**Patricelli, Leslie.** *Nighty-Night*

**Prasadam-Halls, Smriti.** *Hello, Bugs!*

**Rey, H.A.** *Curious George’s Opposites* (and other titles)

**Root, Phyllis.** *One Duck Stuck*

**Srinivasan, Divya.** *Little Owl’s Colors*

**Swift, Ginger.** *Babies on the Farm*

**Wan, Joyce.** *The Whale in My Swimming Pool*

**Zucchelli-Romer, Claire.** *Wiggles*

**Abbott, Simon.** *My First Colors* (and other titles)

**Adler, Victoria.** *All of Baby Nose to Toes Appalachian Babies!*

**Asim, Jabari.** *Whose Knees Are These?*

**Bauer, Marion Dane.** *How Do I Love You?*

**Biggs, Brian.** *Blue Bus, Red Balloon: A Book of Colors*

**Bleiman, Andrew.** *ZooBorns! Zoo Babies From Around the World*

**Boynton, Sandra.** *Moo, Baa, La La La!* (and other titles)

**Boynton, Sandra.** *Woodland Dance*

**Brown, Janet Allison.** *Left Hand, Right Hand*

**Brown, Margaret Wise.** *Goodnight Moon*

**Butler, John.** *Ten in the Den*

**Campbell, Rod.** *Dear Zoo* (and other titles)

**Carle, Eric.** *Eric Carle’s Opposites*

**Ceelen, Vicky.** *Baby Nose to Baby Toes*

**Collins, Ross.** *There’s a Bear on My Chair*

**Cuyler, Margery.** *The Little Dump Truck*

**Dann, Penny.** *Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Turn Around*

**Davenport, Maxine.** *Baby’s First Shapes* (and other titles)

**Dean, James.** *I Love Pete the Kitty*

**Dewdney, Anna.** *Llama Llama Zippity-Zoom*

**Elmquist, Laurie.** *Beach Baby*

**Emberley, Rebecca.** *My Opposites = Mis Opuestos*

**Fleming, Denise.** *The Everything Book*

**Florian, Douglas.** *Play! Play! Play!* (and other titles)

**Ford, Emily.** *Ten Playful Penguins*
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Ada, Alma Flor. Ten Little Puppies
Allen, Pamela. Who Sank the Boat?
Andreae, Giles. Giraffes Can’t Dance
Baker, Keith. Big Fat Hen
Barton, Byron. My Car (and other titles)
Cabrera, Jane. The Wheels on the Bus
Campbell, Rod. Dear Zoo
Carle, Eric. The Very Hungry Caterpillar (and other titles)
Christelow, Eileen. Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed
Corrigan, Sophie. Pugtato Babysits the Sprouts
Cousins, Lucy. Hooray for Fish!
Crews, Donald. Freight Train
Cushman, Abi. Soaked!
Cuyler, Margery. The Little Dump Truck
Dewdney, Anna. Llama Llama Home With Mama (and other titles)
Dodd, Emma. Dog’s Colorful Day
Ehlert, Lois. Feathers for Lunch (and other titles)
Diesen, Deborah. The Pout-Pout Fish
Fleming, Denise. Sleepy, Oh So Sleepy
Desierto, Derek. Oddbird
Fox, Mem. Hello Baby (and other titles)
Fox, Mem. Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes
Goetz, Steve. Old Macdonald Had a Truck
Grant, Jacob. No Pants!
Hamilton, Kersten. Red Truck
Hart, Caryl. Sonny Says Mine
Henkes, Kevin. Little White Rabbit (and other titles)
Hort, Lenny. The Seals on the Bus
Hutchenson, Eileen. A Little Bit of Dinosaur
Kutner, Merrily. Down on the Farm
Lang, Suzanne. Grumpy Monkey
Lewis, Kevin. Chugga, Chugga, Choo-Choo
Litwin, Eric. Pete the Cat’s Groovy Imagination (and other titles)
London, Jonathan. Froggy Gets Dressed (and other titles)
Lucado, Max. Where’d My Giggle Go?
Martin Jr., Bill. Here Are My Hands (and other titles)
Matheson, Christie. The Hidden Rainbow
Parr, Todd. Family Book (and other titles)
Patricelli, Leslie. Higher, Higher
Raschka, Chris. Five for a Little One
Rathmann, Peggy. Good Night Gorilla
Rey, H.A. Curious George (and other titles)
Rinker, Sherry Duskey. Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site
Root, Phyllis. Flip, Flap, Fly
Rylant, Cynthia. Puppies and Piggies
Sayres, Brianna Caplan. Where do Diggers Sleep at Night?
Schertle, Alice. Little Blue Truck (and other titles)
Shaw, Nancy. Sheep in a Jeep (and other titles)
Shulman, Lisa. Old Macdonald Had a Woodshop
Sis, Peter. Fire Truck
Stockdale, Susan. Bring on the Birds
Tafuri, Nancy. Five Little Chicks (and other titles)
Tankard, Jeremy. Grumpy Bird
Trapani, Ira. I’m a Little Teapot
Wallace, Adam. Never Ever Lick a Llama
Willems, Mo. Opposites Attract
Wood, Audrey. The Napping House (and other titles)
Zimmerman, Andrea. Trashy Town
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Alborough, Jez. Where’s My Teddy?
Barnett, Mac. Sam and Dave Dig a Hole
Bemelmans, Ludwig. Madeline
Brett, Jan. The Mitten (and other titles)
Cabrera, Jane. The Wheels on the Bus (and other titles)
Carle, Eric. The Very Hungry Caterpillar (and other titles)
Christelow, Eileen. Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed
Cormand, Gaia. Jabari Jumps
Dahl, Michael. Good Morning, Superman!
Daywalt, Drew. The Day the Crayons Quit
De la Pena, Matt. The Last Stop on Market Street
Deerfield, Cori. The Rabbit Listened
DePaola, Tomie. Strega Nona
Donaldson, Julia. The Gruffalo
Emberley, Rebecca. There Was an Old Monster
Falconer, Ian. Olivia
Feiffer, Jules. Bark George
Fleming, Denise. Mama Cat Has Three Kittens
Fox, Mem. Two Little Monkeys
Freeman, Don. Corduroy
Galdone, Paul. Little Red Hen
Gall, Chris. Dinotrux
Geist, Ken. The Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark
Henkes, Kevin. Kitten’s First Full Moon (and other titles)
Higgins, Ryan. Mother Bruce (other titles)
Hillenbrand, Will. Spring is Here
Hills, Tad. How Rocket Learned to Read
John, Jory. The Bad Seed (and other titles)
Kalan, Robert. Jump Frog Jump
Lewis, Kevin. My Truck is Stuck
Lionni, Leo. Swimmy
Litwin, Eric. Pete the Cat and the Missing Cupcakes (and other titles)
Long, Suzanne. Grumpy Monkey
McBratney, Sam. Guess How Much I Love You
McCloskey, Robert. Make Way for Ducklings
McMullan, Kate. I Stink! (other titles available)
Mora, Oge. Saturday
Na, Il Sung. The Dreamer
Norman, Kim. I Know a Wee Piggy
Numeroff, Laura. If You Give a Mouse a Cookie
Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. Uni the Unicorn
Sayre, April Pulley. Rah, Rah, Radishes!
Schachner, Judy. Skippyjon Jones
Scieszka, Jon. The True Story of the Three Little Pigs
Scotton, Rob. Splat the Cat (and other titles)
Seeger, Laura Vaccara. Dog and Bear
Sendak, Maurice. Where the Wild Things Are
Shannon, David. David Gets in Trouble (and other titles)
Shea, Bob. Dinosaur vs. the Library (and other titles)
Sherry, Kevin. I’m the Biggest Thing in the Ocean
Slobidkina, Esphyr. Caps for Sale
Stead, Philip C. A Sick Day for Amos McGee
Steig, William. Sylvester and the Magic Pebble
Taback, Simms. Joseph Had a Little Overcoat
Thomas, Jan. Rhyming Dust Bunnies (and other titles)
Urbanovic, Jackie. Duck Soup
Walsh, Ellen Stoll. Mouse Paint (and other titles)
Warhola, James. If You’re Happy and You Know It: Jungle Edition
Whippo, Walt. Little White Duck
Willems, Mo. Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! (and other titles)
Willems, Mo. Opposites Attract
Wilson, Karma. Bear Snores On (and other titles)
Woodson, Jacqueline. The Day You Begin
Yolen, Jan. How to Dinosaurs Say Good Night (and other titles)
Zion, Gene. Harry the Dirty Dog