

welcome

B A B Y

SONGS AND RHYMES PRESENTED BY
THE EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



read. talk. play.

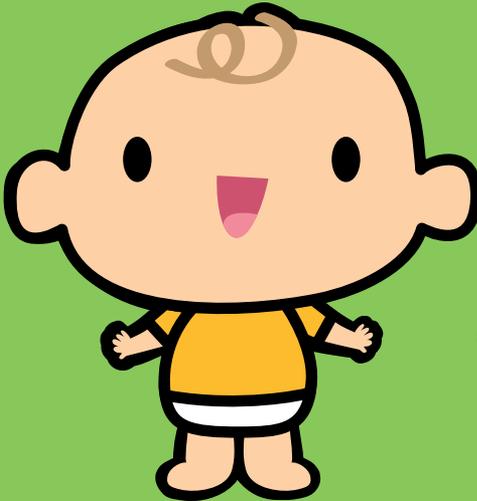
EARLY LITERACY AT EPL

This book belongs to:

This booklet is also available electronically in five world languages: Chinese, French, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese

To download, visit: epl.ca/brochures

**Criss cross applesauce
Spiders crawling up your back
Cool breeze
Tight squeeze
Now you've got the shivereez**





EARLY LITERACY

Congratulations on picking up a free library card and board book for your baby! A child learns to love books and build reading skills at home starting from birth. EPL can help.

These rhymes will not only delight your child and increase your special bond, but they will also help your child develop the skills they need to learn to read.

Early literacy is everything children need to know to learn to read and write. It includes everything they have seen and heard about books, language and print.

There are five simple activities you should do every day to help your child develop these critical skills. When you're doing these activities with your child, remember to use the language you speak at home. Strong early literacy skills in any language will help them learn to read and talk in other languages, including English.

READING

Reading with your child is the best way for them to learn the skills they need to become a good reader.

TALKING

Talking with your child helps them communicate better. It helps them learn new words and gives them the information they need to understand what they learn.

PLAYING

Play is fundamental to children's health and well-being. It is how they learn about the world and how language works. No matter what it looks like, when children play, they learn.

SINGING

Singing activates the entire brain. It is soothing for children and slows down language so it is easier to hear the sounds that make up words.

WRITING

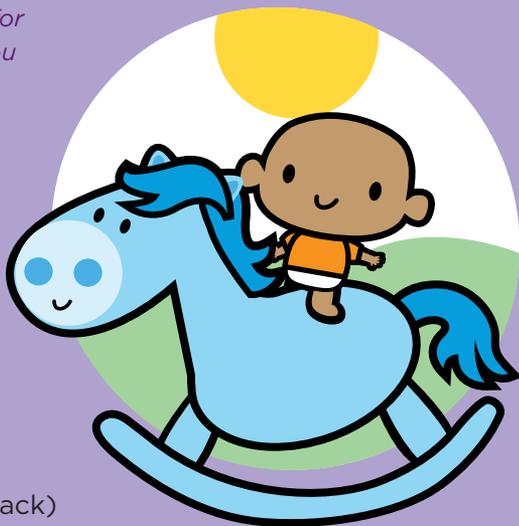
Writing helps children communicate and bridge the oral and written world. It teaches children that letters and words stand for sounds and that print has meaning.

RHYMES AND SONGS

Bouncing rhymes are wonderful for rhythm! Hold your baby facing you so that she can see your mouth making the words as you bounce.

Rickety, rickety rocking horse

Rickety, rickety rocking horse
(Lift one knee at a time)
Over the fields we go
Rickety, rickety rocking horse
Gitty up, gitty up!
(Two strong bounces)
WHOA! (Hug baby and lean back)



Trit Trot

Trit, trot to Boston, (Bounce baby)
Trit, trot to Lynn,
Take care, Baby,
Don't fall IN!
(Drop baby between knees)
Trit, trot to London,
(Bounce baby)
Trit, trot to Dover.
Look out, Baby
Don't fall O-VER!
(Tip baby to one side)



Some babies like gentle bounces and others like big bounces; **watch your baby's face for cues.**

Talk with your baby! Ask him questions, and when he babbles, treat that like an answer and respond.



Grandfather Clock

The grandfather clock goes tick tock tick tock
(Rock back and forth slowly)

The kitchen clock goes tick tock tick tock
(Rock a bit faster)

But mama's wristwatch goes ticka ticka ticka

Tickle!



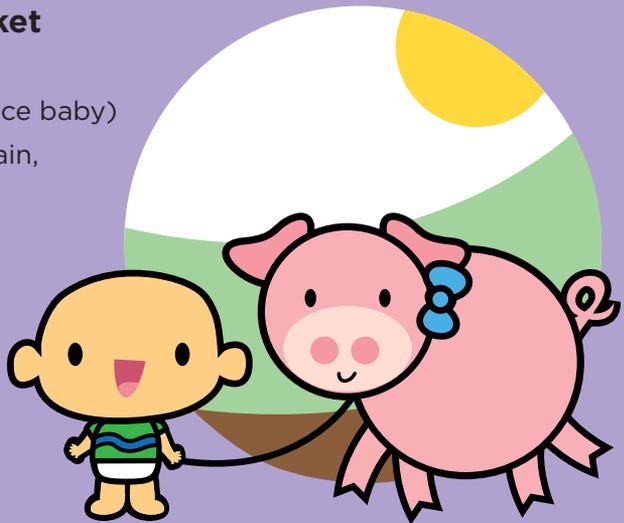
To Market, To Market

To market, to market,
to buy a fat pig. (bounce baby)

Home again, home again,
Jiggety-Jig.

To market, to market,
to buy a fat hog.

Home again,
home again,
Jiggety-Jog.



Playing with different shapes—balls, blocks, puzzles—will help your child learn how letters are formed.

RHYMES AND SONGS

Songs are a great way to learn language! Singing lets children understand how the little sounds in language work, which helps them on the path to becoming readers! To your child, you have the most beautiful voice in the world. Babies don't mind if you sing off key—they are just happy that you are sharing music with them!

Peek-a-Boo

Peek-a-boo-hoo,
Peek-a-boo-hoo
(Do peek-a-boo motion)
I see you, I see you
(Point to self then to baby)

I see your little nose
(Touch nose)

I see your little toes
(Touch toes)

Peek-a-boo

I see you
(Do peek-a-boo motion)

Tune: Frère Jacques



Encourage your baby to babble and "talk"—
she is getting ready to say words!

Repetition is essential for learning. Sing the same songs, read the same books and say the same rhymes over and over—your baby will love recognizing favourites!



Itsy-bitsy spider

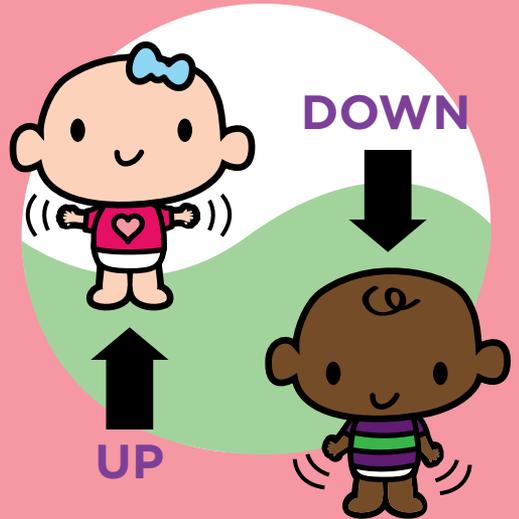
The itsy-bitsy spider
climbed up the water spout.
Down came the rain and
washed the spider out.
Out came the sun and
dried up all the rain,
So the itsy-bitsy spider
went up the spout again.



Hands Upon Your Head

Hands upon your head,
Hands upon your head.
Up and down and up
and down,
Hands upon your head.
(Repeat with other
body parts)

Tune: Farmer in the Dell



Speak in "Parent-ese"—using a higher tone and a slower pace than your regular voice.

RHYMES AND SONGS

Some of the first words a child learns are body parts. Rhymes that include touching faces and moving fingers help children learn words and give you a chance to cuddle with your child. Babies love to have their faces touched, and rhymes encouraging loving physical contact help children feel safe, loved and ready to learn!

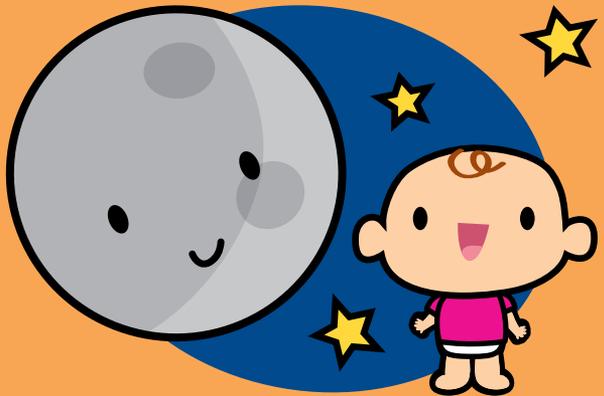
Here is the Beehive

Here is the beehive
(Make fist)
But where are the bees?
Hidden away
Where nobody sees.
Look and you'll see them
Come out of the hive,
One, Two, Three, Four, Five,
(Open fingers)
Bzzzzzzzzzzzz. (Tickle)



Moon is Round

The moon is round
(Circle face with finger)
As round can be
Two eyes, a nose
And a mouth, like me!



Add kisses when you sing or read together.

Babies learn more easily when they feel loved and safe.

Cuddle your baby as you read to make it a cozy, loving time.
Don't worry if your baby is only interested for a short time; a positive
experience is more important than a long one. Keep it fun!



Round and Round the Garden

Round and round the garden

(Swirl finger in palm)

Goes the teddy bear

One step two step

(Walk fingers up to chin)

Tickle you under there

(Tickle chin)



Two Little Dicky Birds

(Hold up thumbs)

Two little dicky birds

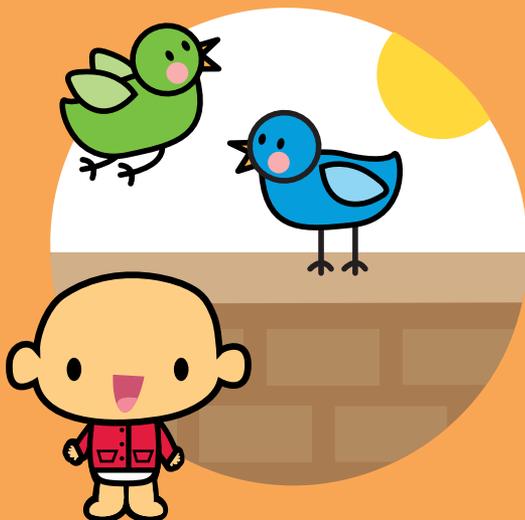
Sitting on a wall

One named Peter

The other named Paul

Fly away, Peter!

Fly away, Paul!



Point out words—on clothes, bottles, toys—
everywhere you and your baby see print!

RHYMES AND SONGS

Add songs to your everyday activities to make them more fun—bath times, folding laundry, making dinner or diaper changing. Songs and rhymes soothe babies (and you!) and can change difficult times into enjoyable ones.

Leg over Leg

Leg over leg,
(Cross legs)

The dog went to Dover;
When he came to a stile,
Jump, he went over.
(Lift legs up and slide
diaper under bottom)



Sing the alphabet song to your baby—it works as a calming lullaby and it will eventually help her learn her letters!

Talk as if you were having a conversation with your baby. Even if she doesn't understand you, she knows that the conversation is important and special.

Your voice—whether it's low and rumbly or high and sweet—
is the most beautiful sound to your baby.

Babies are built for learning language. Speak to your children in your home language. This will help them build a strong foundation to learn other languages.



Changing Diapers

Changing diapers,
Changing diapers

Lots of fun! Lots of fun!

Now you're not so stinky.

Now you're not so stinky.

Nice clean bum. Nice clean bum.

Tune: Frère Jacques



Scrub Your Dirty Hands

Scrub your dirty hands

Scrub your dirty hands

Scrubba dubba

Scrubba dubba

Scrub your dirty hands

(Repeat with other body parts)

Tune: Farmer in the Dell



Use your child's name in rhymes—she will love hearing her name!

RHYMES AND SONGS

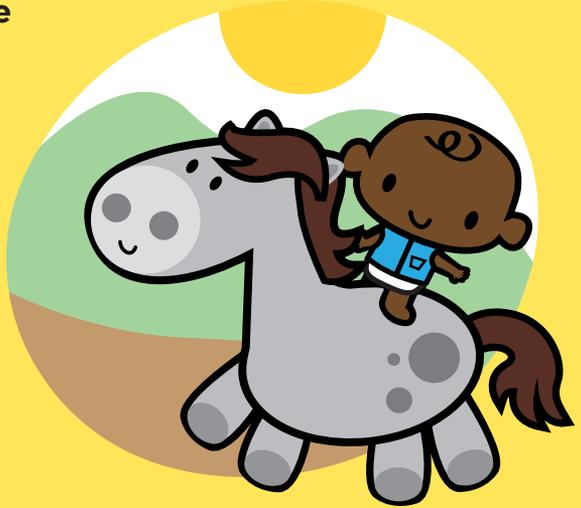
Shoe the Little Horsie

Shoe the little horsie
(tap on one foot)

Shoe the little mare
(tap on other foot)

But let the little colt go

Bare, bare, bare!
(Pat bottom)



This is the Way We Wash Our Hair

This is the way
we wash our hair
wash our hair
wash our hair

This is the way
we wash our hair

On a warm and sleepy evening
(Repeat with other body parts)

*Tune: Here We Go 'Round the
Mulberry Bush*



Narrate your day! Describe what you're doing as you are doing it.

Read books together and point at pictures and words. It's never too early to start!



Reading, talking, playing, singing and writing with babies creates a language-rich environment for children. Find fun ways to include these five activities into your daily routines and encourage a lifelong love of language!

**Tune in to Storytime Station
for rhyme and song videos at
epl.ca/StorytimeStation**



Share books that have flaps, mirrors or textures and let your baby touch the book while reading.

EARLY LITERACY

How do rhymes help my baby?

Nursery rhymes teach babies how stories work—in just a few lines, an entire vivid story unfolds. They also help babies hear the smaller sounds in words. Plus, they're fun and a great excuse to cuddle!

How else can I help my baby?

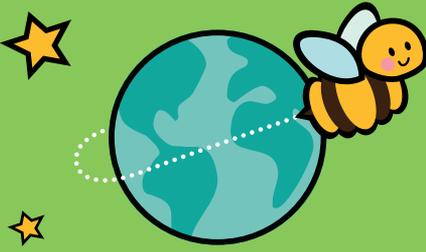
You are your baby's greatest teacher and spend the majority of time with him. Your baby idolizes you and looks to you for clues on how to act, talk and behave. Reading talking, playing, singing and writing with your baby are the best ways to solidify your strong bond, have fun, and teach him. To learn more about how you can support your child's development, visit epl.ca/earlyliteracy.

How important are early literacy skills?

Essential! Research on infant brain development shows us that a child's experience in the early years directly impacts later development and learning, including success in high school. Reading with your child is the best way for them to learn the skills they need to become a good reader.

How can the Library help?

EPL helps you instill a lifelong love of reading in your child, starting from birth. Our classes for babies, toddlers and preschoolers, as well as our suggestions for great books and activities, help develop the early literacy skills essential for future reading success and enjoyment. Visit your local library or epl.ca/kids-0-5 for more information on classes, books and other resources that can help you at home.



**“The more you read,
the more you know;
and the more you know,
the smarter you grow.”**

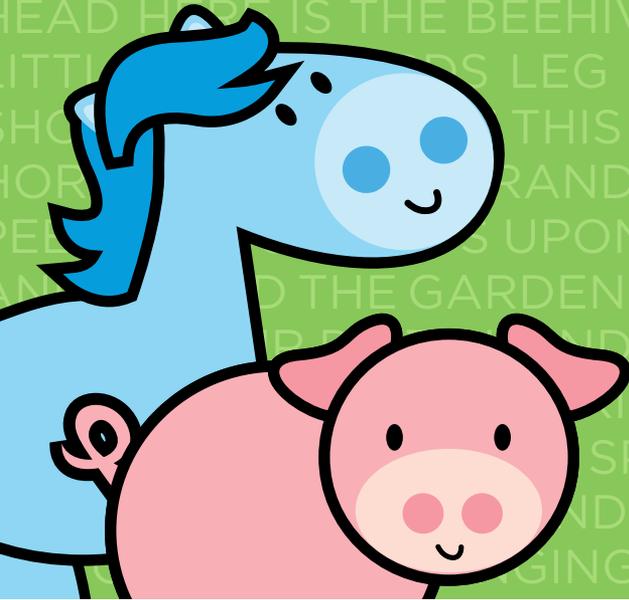
JIM TRELEASE,
Educator and Author



Prepare your baby for a lifetime of learning. EPL can help.

**Then everyone began
to sing, Yes, readers
can do anything!”**

~ Born to Read by Judy Sierra



Material #288691 June 2022
Marketing and Communications