

Child Literacy

The Magic of Early Reading

Many parents are eager to help their young children learn how to read. Unfortunately, some parents think that means flash cards and alphabet drills. However, experts recommend that what a parent should do is prepare their child to learn how to read, and make books fun.

Early literacy is not about teaching a child to read, but *it is* about the skills and development a child needs in order to be ready to read. The children's librarians at all Deschutes Public Libraries can assist parents in many ways with those skills and to help make reading enjoyable.

Story Times at the library are designed to promote the basic skills necessary for getting young children ready to learn how to read. Children's librarians are trained in "Early Words" and "Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library," two national programs that target early literacy.

Children's librarians can recommend books just right for babies, toddlers, or preschoolers. Each library has book lists to help you choose books, including a series entitled "You Asked For It," featuring subjects parents frequently request. Our librarians are available to speak to adult groups about "The Magic of Early Reading." This workshop focuses on what caregivers can do to guide young children toward a lifelong habit of learning and reading.

So contact the children's librarian at your local branch to schedule a workshop, find out about *Story Times*, or get a recommendation for a good book. It's what we do, and we do it well!

Heather McNeil, Bend Branch Co-Manager



ReSouRCeS FoR PaReNTS

- Book lists appropriate for your child's age group.
- Wonderful *Story Times*
- Books on parenting.
- Parent & caregiver early literacy workshops.
 - Movies, magazines, puppets, literacy kits, recorded books, and books for you & your child to use—*free*.
 - Computers with games for the young child.
 - Spine labels that quickly identify which book is right for your child.
- For babies: cardboard books that are easy to handle and can tolerate a bit of chewing.
- Expert child librarians to help you & your child through each phase of development.