



Emergent Literacy— The Forest Area

*“Read to me and watch me grow. Tell me all the tales you know. For in this life, I’ll need a map.
Let it begin on your lap.” - Judi Moreillon, author*

What are children learning in The Forest Area?

Listening, speaking, acting, and reading all develop children’s early language and literacy skills. Research shows that reading books and having regular conversations with children – even long before they can speak – makes them better thinkers, better communicators, and eventually better readers.

Consider these links between learning and emergent literacy activities:

- While playing with books, children attempt to make sense of print through a variety of strategies that they themselves invent.
- When children talk, read, sing or play with older children or adults, they use language that is more complex than it is during other times of play.
- Children use multiple senses to explore books. Physical connections, such as turning pages, feeling textures, and listening to different tones and volumes, shape the way children feel, think, behave, and learn.

What can I do to support my child’s emergent literacy development?

- Encourage your child to pick a letter in the Wonder Cabinet ABC wall. Feel the letter’s shape, talk about the background textures, and share in your child’s delight in finding out “what happened” to the letter.
- When reading to your child, invite him or her to participate in the story telling—by making noises, predicting events, or repeating words.
- Encourage your child to use puppets and other props to tell his or her own stories.

More resources:

Online games and activities for children, information for adults:

<http://pbskids.org/readingrainbow/>

Ideas and resources for fun family literacy activities:

www.scholastic.com/earlylearner/index.htm

Babies Need Books: Sharing the Joy of Books with Children from Birth to Six,

by Dorothy Butler, Heinemann, 1998

Books used for Storytime and elsewhere in the Wonder Cabinet are available at our Museum store, libraries and local book stores.

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