



## **FREE RESOURCES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY**

Most of these are Internet sites. The emphasis is on "how-to" along with easy activities for parents, caregivers, preschools, and other groups. Materials can be downloaded, then copied. The U.S. Department of Education site is enormous. Try direct links, then sample other pages.

**If you don't have Internet access or are not sure how to get to the sites you want,  
ASK A LIBRARIAN, THE BESTSEARCH ENGINE @your library™**

- America Reads, <<http://www.ed.gov/inits/americanreads/>> Be sure to take time to explore not only the initial site but connected pages. For example, the parent section includes another program called Ready\*Set\*Read!“
- All Together Now” diversity activities and ideas, ready to use in a classroom. Download the entire booklet. <<http://www.civilrights.org/publications/alltogethernow/index.html>>
- American Library Association site, with "Born to Read" and bibliographies for books (babies and toddlers), with tip sheets and pamphlets, **English and Spanish**. Download short versions, cut and paste, copy. Low cost materials, too.  
<<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/borntoread/bornread.htm> >
- ALA book list for little kids, birth to five. <[www.ed.gov/Family/RSRforFamily/booklist.html](http://www.ed.gov/Family/RSRforFamily/booklist.html)>
- Barahona Center for Study of Books in **Spanish** for Children and Adolescents  
At this site you can COMPILE A BOOKLIST OF TITLES of Spanish-language books for kids. Then you can ask your librarian to get some of them. <<http://www.csusm.edu/csb/>>
- “Born to Succeed” or “La Llave del Exito” Great video on young parents and reading to babies and toddlers, 10 to 12 minutes, in their own words. \$24, Multnomah County Library, Early Childhood Resources, 205 NE Russell St, Portland OR 97212-3796, 503.248.5458.  
<<http://www.multcolib.org/birthtosix/ecr/products.html> > **English and Spanish**. Or borrow a copy through interlibrary loan. Also other resources.
- “Building Your Baby’s Brain” **English and Spanish**, US Dept of Education  
Extensive booklet for parents with activities to stimulate babies’ brains and enhance their development. This publication reviews all the basics about brain development for the first five years. Free at <<http://www.teachingstrategies.com/content/pageDocs/buildingbaby.pdf>>:  
Or Spanish at <<http://www.teachingstrategies.com/content/pageDocs/spanbuilding.pdf>>
- “Checkpoints for Progress In Reading and Writing for Families and Communities” Gives developmental milestones on what kids should be doing at certain ages and what families can do to help; birth to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. <<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/CheckFamilies/>>
- Colorado State Library children’s literacy initiatives: Links, tips, publications, including **FREE pamphlets**, “Reading Tips for Parents” and “Ready? Set? Go! Kindergarten Readiness” in **English and Spanish**. Booklists, volunteer projects, other resources.  
<[http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/Childrens\\_Literacy\\_Resources.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/Childrens_Literacy_Resources.htm)>

- Disabilities or potential learning difficulties, free screening and assistance, Early Childhood Connections. <<http://www.cde.state.co.us/earlychildhoodconnections/>>
  - **“Helping Your Child Succeed in School”**: A number of publications associated with the Federal No Child Left Behind act, this site links to useful materials about reading. Also in **Spanish**. <<http://www.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/edpicks.jhtml?src=ln>>
  - "Kansas Kids Ready for Learning" Chock full of links of all types—reading, writing, math, parents, schools—from all over the country. Activities, studies, organizations. For kids birth to 8. <<http://www.readyforlearning.net>>
  - “Kids Literacy Colorado,” a local site with information targeted to parents and careproviders, with lots of information about how-to and links to other sites, produced by a collaborations of libraries and other groups. <<http://www.kidsliteracycolorado.douglascountylibraries.org>>
  - PBS--ANY children’s programming—Arthur, Teletubbies, Sesame Street, Barnie. Free activities, coloring sheets, advice for adults. Good to use in conjunction with watching the programs. <<http://www.pbs.org>>
  - Public Library Association’s early childhood literacy initiative, “Every Child Ready to Read.” Age-specific, birth to five years old. Formal program with thorough training materials, as well as parents’ handouts. <<http://www.ala.org/ala/pla/plaissues/earlylit/earlyliteracy.htm>>
  - Reading Is Fundamental “Reading Planet” Searchable list of activities for kids birth to fifteen years for families, caregivers, teachers. Site also has book reviews by readers, formal program for book distribution. <<http://www.rifreadingplanet.org/rif/>>
  - Read\*Write\*Now, <<http://www.ed.gov/inits/americanreads/readnow.html>> **English and Spanish**, information for families, activities they can do, kids birth to sixth grade; formal tutoring program ideas.
  - Smart Start Colorado: <[www.smartstartcolorado.org](http://www.smartstartcolorado.org)> A central point for services and coordinated efforts in early childhood across the state. Has free e-newsletter.
- “Staying on Track. . .as Your Child Grows & Learns” Colorado Department of Education, Early Childhood Initiatives. Free brief brochures targeted to parents of children birth to 5 years, **English and Spanish**. Developmental milestones and things for parents to do, **303.866.6710**.
- “The Story Place,” Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County. Online, Internet, English and Spanish stories for all ages of kids, games, etc. <<http://www.storyplace.org/>>
  - “Tips for Parents,” **English and Spanish** . <<http://www.nwrac.org/pub/tipsforparents.pdf>> and <<http://www.nwrac.org/pub/tipsforpadres.pdf>>. 30 pages. Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. Free download copy.

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**REMEMBER, libraries have FREE books, for kids and parents, in English and Spanish. Also story hours, crafts, and summer reading programs. Yes, little kids can enroll.**

Provided as a public service by the Colorado State Library, Colorado Department of Education,  
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