

PARENT-CAREGIVER LIBRARY CONNECTION

EARLY LITERACY TIP

Phonological Awareness

Children who can hear how words “come apart” into separate sounds will be more successful at “sounding out” words when they start to read. Knowing when two words rhyme, recognizing words that have the same beginning or ending sounds, and identifying syllables are all examples of phonological awareness.

Activities at home

Singing helps break down the sounds in words. The more you sing together the more your little one is learning. Try playing rhyming games! Encourage your little one to rhyme words.

LEARNING ON THE GO (18 MONTHS-5 YEARS)

Enjoy storytime, songs and play with your little one. Leave with books and fun activities to keep the learning going at home! Everyone is welcome, from grandparents to caregivers.

- Saturday, May 3, from 10-11 at **Eloise May Library**
- Tuesday, May 6, from 10-11am at **Sheridan Library**
- Wednesday, May 7, from 10-11 at **Kelver Library**
- Thursday, May 8, from 10-11 at **Smoky Hill Library**
- Friday, May 9, from 2-3 at **Smoky Hill Library**
- Tuesday, May 13, from 10-11 at **Southglenn Library**
- Wednesday, May 14, from 10-11 at **Castlewood Library**

Please register each child and adult attending this program. Drop-ins welcome as space allows!

LIBRARY BABIES

We Love Our Library Babies!

Register to receive a Library Babies kit by mail! It includes one librarian-selected board book, an “I’m a Library Baby!” tote bag, and a booklet of rhymes, songs and bounces perfect for helping your little one begin their journey to becoming a reader. For babies aged 0–18 months. One bag per baby, please, and open to Arapahoe county residents only.



BOOK CORNER

Let's Be Bees By Shawn Harris



Let's be Bees is a fun interactive story that demonstrates how reading with your little one can become an engaging and interactive experience. The caregiver and little one read a story and pretend to be a variety of different animals and insects.

Questions about reading readiness at your childcare center? Email Laurie Anne: larmstrong@ald.lib.co.us
 Questions about Begin with Books storytime for in-home childcare? Email Alexa: abynumsoto@ald.lib.co.us
 For more resources, visit arapahoelibraries.org/children-0-5/ or call 303-LIBRARY (303-542-7279).

PARENT-CAREGIVER LIBRARY CONNECTION

LOOKING FOR QUALITY CHILDCARE

Finding childcare can be an intimidating task. There are many factors to consider, such as cost, location, hours of operation and your child's needs.

- Begin the search early. The best childcare providers fill up quickly, so it's important to start searching early. This allows plenty of time to compare options and find the right fit.
- Research is good. There are many different types of childcare available, including daycare centers, preschools and in-home childcare.
- Childcare can be expensive. It's important to factor in the cost when making your decision. Consider using a childcare subsidy program if you qualify.
- Consider the location of the childcare provider. Are they easy to get to in an emergency? Does the location change your regular commute?
- Visit and see for yourself. Once options are narrowed down, it's important to visit potential providers in-person.
- Trust your instincts. When going out to visit different providers, pay attention to your feelings as you go. If something feels uncomfortable during a visit, there is likely a reason, whether it is clear or not. Don't be afraid to move on until you feel confident in a decision.

RESOURCES-QUALITY CHILDCARE

Explore local and national resources for assistance on your childcare journey:

- [Childcare.gov](#) offers free tip sheets for choosing quality childcare.
- [Colorado Shines](#), from the Colorado Department of Early Childhood, has tools for families to help navigate childcare including offering free referrals.
- [Colorado Kids Pediatrics](#) covers the different types of childcare along with suggested questions for a potential provider. They also display guides for staffing ratios, preparing your child to start childcare, and other useful resources.
- [Healthychildren.org](#) supports choosing a childcare center with a checklist, common questions to ask a childcare provider and additional resources.
- Check to see if [Universal Preschool Colorado](#) is currently accepting applications!

JUST RIGHT BOARD BOOKS

Check out our Just Right Board Books

Reading to your baby is an excellent way to enjoy each other, build critical brain connections, and give your baby a love of books. These "Just Right Board Books" sets show what types of books are good to share - and why - each step of the way. "Just Right



Board Books" kits are grouped by age. Kits are designed for ages 3 to 24 months. There are also Spanish Just Right Board Books.

To place a hold on these search "Just Right Board Books" in our catalog.

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