

Where Wakefield Connects



Beebe Library's Youth Room is the place to connect with books, movies, information, and other people. Kids can hang out at the train table, color a picture, or attend a program. Parents can join them, chat with friends, and make new connections of their own.

Librarians are resources to both kids and parents. Librarians know books and they know child development. Librarians are experts at connecting kids to books, so a librarian who knows your child can lead him/her from one good story to the next one.

Three Suggestions for Raising a Reader

Get a library card and a PIN. You can borrow books, music, and DVDs. You can use the computers, reserve museum passes, search online databases, and download audio books. You can reserve books and renew items from home. Cards are free.

Ask a librarian. If you have questions, let us help you find answers. If you've read a good book, let us help you find something similar.

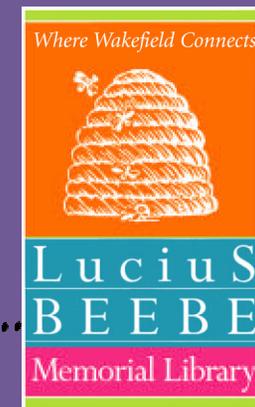
Visit often. You get to know the staff and we get to know your family's interests and needs.

345 MAIN STREET, WAKEFIELD MA 01880 •
PHONE: 781-246-6334 • WWW.WAKEFIELDLIBRARY.ORG

Early Literacy and Preschool Services

A baby's brain is wired to establish language in the first two years of life.

Early literacy skills are the foundation for comprehension, speech, reading, and later learning. Beebe Library provides programs, materials, and services that promote early literacy.



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What is Early Literacy?



Six early literacy skills that build successful readers.

Vocabulary - learning words and their meaning. Does your child want to know the names of things she sees? Does she understand opposites and know her colors?

Print motivation - developing an attachment to the written word. Does your child have a favorite book? Does he have a special place for his books?

Print awareness - recognizing text. Does your child notice stop signs and other signs he sees daily? Does he see you read? Does he pretend to read books?

Narrative skills - relating a series of events. Can your child tell you about one of her adventures? Does she talk about stories she has heard?

Phonological awareness - recognizing discrete sounds. Does your child know some nursery rhymes? Does he make up short strings of rhyming words? Does he notice when two words begin with the same sound?

Letter knowledge - recognizing discrete letters. Does your child sing along when you sing the ABC song? Can she

Readers' Advisory is a service available from any librarian. Ask a librarian to suggest a good book. The library also offers book lists featuring popular subjects for different reading levels. These lists are available on the children's pages at the Beebe Library website www.wakefieldlibrary.org.

The **Parents' Shelf** is a collection of books and magazines offering answers to questions about pregnancy, infant care, child development, behavioral concerns, and education.

Teacher Resources include books on art projects, science experiments, and literacy activities. Librarians will compile book lists on request, and, with notice, gather multiple copies of books for reading groups.

Software includes games and educational programs for all ages.

Computers offer internet access and games. Wi-Fi extends throughout the building.

Literature Kits are available on themes such as the circus, going to the hospital, the new baby, transportation, and going to school.

The **Music Collection** brings CDs and cassettes of nursery rhymes, folk songs, lullabies, and classical music into your home.

The **Library's Web Site** www.wakefieldlibrary.org features booklists, homework help, and news on library programs and town-wide activities.

Use the **Early Literacy Blog** to share questions and suggestions with other Wakefield parents.

Preschool Services and Materials



Mother Goose on the Loose is a nationally acclaimed story time program that develops pre-reading skills in infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. The program is offered in four six-week sessions during the academic year.

Saturday Sing-Alongs are held throughout the year. The entire family will enjoy listening to stories, rhyming, singing and dancing together.

New Baby Kits are free gift packs for Wakefield families welcoming new arrivals.

The **Coloring Table** has a changing selection of pictures to color. Coloring together is a great opportunity for your child to learn color names, how to hold a crayon, and how to write her name.

The **Train Table** is a fun place for children to learn to play alone or together.

Home Activities for Little Learners



Everyday activities build literacy skills.

Kids are always learning, and the more they learn, the more they are ready to learn more. Everyday activities like listening, talking, singing, and reading whatever is at hand help children develop the skills necessary to become successful readers.



Around the house



Narrative Skills

- Have your child tell you a story.
- Give him a toy phone and pretend to call him.
- Ask him about his day and his plans for tomorrow.

Phonological Awareness

- Include nursery rhymes and songs when you read. If you read a book about trucks, sing *The Wheels on the Bus*.
- Add rhymes and songs to daily routines. Some suggestions are *This Is the Way We Wash Our Face*, *It's Time to Get Up*, and lullabies.



In the kitchen



Vocabulary

Name items as you put away the dishes or groceries. Talk about the difference between cups and glasses, or bananas and apples.

Print Motivation

Keep books in the kitchen to read while waiting for a treat to bake.

Narrative Skills

Talk while you cook. What do you do first when you are making pancakes? What happens next? What is the last thing you do?

Letter Knowledge

Invest in a set of magnetic letters. Use them to spell your child's name. Ask your child to find the first letter in her name, your name, a sibling's name.



In the yard



Vocabulary

Trace your child's outline on the sidewalk with chalk. Label the body parts.

Print Motivation

Look at seed catalogs together and draw up a plan for a garden. Let your child paste pictures from the catalog on the plan. Make labels for each section of your garden. Keep a simple journal about your garden. If you don't have space or time for a garden, plant something in a few pots.



In the car



Print Motivation

- Keep books in the car. Ask your emerging reader to read to you while you drive.
- Point out that drivers are always reading. Help your child begin to recognize traffic signs.
- If you stop for a meal, explore the menu together.

Phonological Awareness

Sing songs and recite nursery rhymes as you drive.

Letter Knowledge

Play alphabet tag. Take turns spotting letters as you drive. Start with the letters in your child's name and, as he gets better at identifying letters, try to work through the alphabet.



Running errands



Vocabulary

Name the items you are buying. Discuss if a banana is a fruit or a vegetable.

Print Motivation

Make a To Do list and show your child how it matches what you do.

Print Awareness

Point out signs and store receipts as you shop.



Share your ideas!



Visit the Early Literacy Blog at
www.wakefieldlibrary.org