

# Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! 2017

The Just Read, Florida! Office and the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), in partnership with other FDOE offices, the Office of Early Learning, school districts, early learning coalitions and numerous other state agencies, are pleased to announce the ninth annual statewide *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* The event will take place the week of **January 23-27, 2017**.

## Please join us...

**In celebrating literacy by encouraging providers to participate in our simultaneous reading activity on Wednesday, January 25, at 9 a.m. (EST).**

Providers can support this effort to promote literacy in their homes, centers and schools by reading *From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle for infants and toddlers, and *I Don't Want to be a Frog* by Dev Petty for 3- to 5-year-olds. We encourage you to use the expansion activities on the back of this notice.

The foundation for reading is built from infancy. A child's early experiences with books and language lay the foundation for success in learning to read. When you read, talk or play with children, their brains are stimulated and build the connections that become the building blocks for reading. Brain development research shows that the development of language and literacy skills begins at birth and reading aloud to children every day increases their brains' capacity for language and literacy skills.

Reading a book to young children is not only one of the best activities to stimulate language and cognitive skills, but it also builds motivation for reading along with curiosity and memory. The more words parents use when speaking to an infant, the greater the size of their infant's vocabulary.

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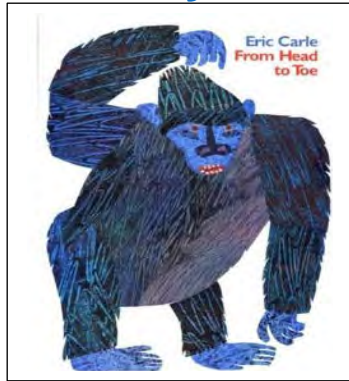
## What can providers and families do to provide early literacy experiences for children?

- Hold young children on your lap or close to you. Read an age-appropriate book to engage in some back-and-forth dialogue around the words and pictures.
- Engage in repeated sequences of interactions between you and the children. Point out something on the page and ask the child questions like "What's that?" "What's that kitty doing?" as well as open-ended questions.
- Allow the child to respond and then provide feedback.



January 23-27, 2017

## Infant/toddler (Birth to 3-year-olds)



### Expansion activities

This year's selection for Celebrate Literacy Week is **From Head to Toe** by Eric Carle. It is also available in Spanish. See an interview with Eric Carle about the book:

<http://www.eric-carle.com/bb-H2Tnotes.html>

**Imitate Movements**-On each page children learn about animal movements and try to imitate them. Ask your children to try it too. For instance, when you read the book, it says: "I am a crocodile and I can wriggle my hips". Show the children how to do the action, then ask them: "Can you do it? Encourage them to yell back: "I can do it!!!", which is a great self-esteem statement for them to learn. (Standards: **Physical Development: Gross Motor**- Demonstrates advancing balance, control and coordination).

**Make a Class Book**-Make an "I Can Do It Book": Make a page for each toddler in the class following the pattern in the story: I am (name) and I can (movement) with my (body part). Take photos of each child as they are acting out their movement. Publish a class book with their words and photos to read again and again with the original story. Follow along with the book while you watch or listen to this YouTube video of the story put to a song:

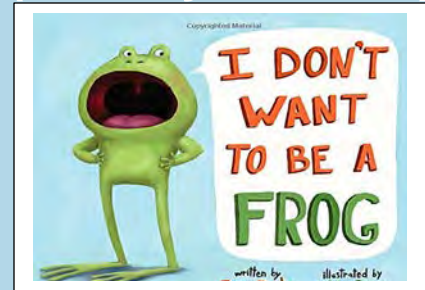
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDOBp9C2FmI> (Standards: **Language and Communication: Early Reading**-Builds and uses vocabulary with language, pictures and books.)

**Movement**-Talk about some of the animals featured in the book, using these activities:

**Penguin Walk**: Play a song and have the children pretend to be penguins waddling around.

**Elephant Tracks**: Place elephant footprint shapes on the floor in a path with contact paper. Play a song and have the children follow the elephant tracks around the floor while they clasp their arms together and swing them like an elephant's trunk. (Standards: **Cognitive Development and General Knowledge: The Arts**: Engages in musical experiences and **Physical Development: Gross Motor**- Demonstrates advancing balance, control and coordination). Follow along with the book while you watch or listen to this YouTube video of the story put to a song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDOBp9C2FmI>

## Preschool (3 to 5-year-olds)



### Expansion activities

**Create Your Own "Me Bags"**- Provide brown paper lunch bags for children to decorate with beads, stickers, markers, etc. Ask children to fill their bags with three favorite things from home. Let the children ask questions about each item, and they will learn more about each child in the class. (Standards: **Creative Expression through the Arts**: Explores the visual arts. **Physical Development**: Shows beginning control of writing by using various drawing and art tools with increasing coordination.) **Relationships**: Interacts with and develops positive relationship with peers; develops special friendship.)

**Create a class "Me Tree"**-Help children understand that your talents are things that you are good at. Having talents can make you feel good about yourself and who you are. Encourage children to write or draw a picture of their talent on a leaf template. Draw or use construction paper to make the outline of a tree trunk and branches on a bulletin board or blank wall and help children attach their leaves to the branches. Encourage children to talk about their talents and about what makes them special. (Standards: **Relationships**: Shows increasing confidence in their own abilities.)

**Discover the Life Cycle of a Frog**-Use pictures or stories that illustrate animals and their babies to discuss that living things grow and change. A caterpillar changes to a butterfly, a tadpole changes to a frog, etc. (Standards **Scientific Inquiry**: Identifies the characteristics of living things.) Follow along with the book while you watch this YouTube video:

<https://binged.it/2h2xHPs>