

Websites of Interest

Better Kid Care:

<http://betterkidcare.psu.edu/>

Penn State's Better Kid Care program provides continuing education opportunities to the childcare community, as well as information on childcare for parents and employers. Their newsletters and other publications provide excellent information.

Get Ready to Read:

<http://getreadytoread.org>

This site is an initiative of the National Center for Learning Disabilities with a goal of ensuring all children have opportunities to become successful readers. The site provides a Home Literacy Environment Checklist and 36 suggested activities to develop print knowledge, emergent writing, and linguistic awareness.

National Association for the Education of Young Children:

<http://www.naeyc.org/about>

The Association posts short practical articles for parents and others involved with children. New articles are added each month. See the *Early Years are Learning Years* article on what to look for in a child care or preschool program.

National Center for Family Literacy:

<http://www.familit.org/site/c.gtJWJdMQIsE/b.1204561/k.BD7C/Home.htm>

NCFL's services include professional development for practitioners who work in children's education and related literacy fields, model program development, and policy and advocacy support to sustain and expand literacy services for families.

National Institute for Literacy (NIFL):

<http://www.nifl.gov/>

NIFL, authorized by Congress, seeks to strengthen literacy for all ages. Use this site to access statistics and policy developments and to locate nearby Family Literacy Programs. Click on LINCS and then its *Literacy Resources Tab* to locate resources for parents and caregivers. The Parents as Teachers section lists links to a number of useful websites.

National Network for Child Care:

<http://www.nncc.org>

The National Network for Child Care offers an Internet source of over 1,000 publications and resources related to childcare. NNCC unites the expertise of many of the nation's leading universities through their Cooperative Extension Programs. Included is Penn State University Cooperative Extension's *Better Kid Care: Reading Aloud*. Topics include "Choosing Books to Read Aloud" and "Extending the Reading Aloud Experience" through activities.

PBS Kids:

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

This Public Broadcasting website includes a Parent section that contains a library of activities to do with children.

Pennsylvania Center for the Book:

<http://pabook.libraries.psu.edu/familylit/default.html>

Pennsylvania's Center for the Book at Pennsylvania State University reports on evidence-based practices that support literacy development. See also their useful guides for parents and caregivers: Getting Started (helping adults read to children); Stepping into Books (helping 1 to 3-year-olds learn); and Growing in Books (helping 3 to 5-year-olds learn).

Preschool Express:

<http://www.preschoolexpress.com/>

Jean Warren's online newsletter provides suggested preschool activities for parents, teachers and others who work with young children. The site suggests activities for the month, and provides various stations including a Music & Rhyme Station, a Story Station, and a Discovery Station. The Discovery Station includes Preschool Science and Discoveries on such topics as Learning About Sounds, What's the Weather, Cooking with Kids and other activities that can be done at home or with a small group.

Reading Rockets:

<http://www.readingrockets.org>

Reading Rockets is a national multimedia project that offers information and resources on how young children learn to read, why some struggle, and how caring adults can help. See especially the *25 Activities for Reading and Writing Fun*. These activities are designed to help parents and caregivers promote reading and writing skills while having fun. There are activities for pre-readers, beginning readers, and older readers.

Smart Start and Brain Development:

<http://www.smartstart-nc.org/familyresources/braindevelopment.htm>

This North Carolina website discusses the latest brain development research, suggests tips for promoting healthy development, and describes the effect of abuse and neglect on brain development.

Zero to Three:

<http://www.zerotothree.org>

For a question and answer style discussion of early reading development, go to the early literacy section of BrainWonders and find out *What We Know About Early Language and Literacy Development*. Also, visit this section for Tips for Parents and Caregivers and for a listing of Great Books for young infants, older infants and toddlers.