



EXTENSION EXTRAS LITERACY ENRICHMENT KIT



WELCOME

Welcome to the Extension Extras Literacy Enrichment Kit!

Michigan State University Extension is excited to partner with your agency or group to create literacy learning kits for the families you serve.

The Extension Extras Literacy Enrichment Kit is focused on supporting the development of children's early literacy skills to help set them up for future success throughout school and life. MSU Extension has provided the following items as a digital resource for you to download and print.

- An introduction letter to families about the kit and the activities.
- Five literacy-focused children's activities.
- Supplemental materials that are needed for some kit activities.
- A supply list for all the activities for your convenience as you assemble the kit.
- An evaluation link so families can share their experiences using the kit as well as their county of residence and zip code.

Your group or agency can print the handouts and materials from the provided digital packet and assemble the kit utilizing the supply list as a guide.



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Literacy Development

Literacy development is a component of every learning experience with children. The Extension Extras activities have embedded literacy components. When parents have conversations with their child about the activities, read the books together and extend the concepts beyond the activities to other parts of their day, they are providing children rich literacy experiences. Children will learn new vocabulary, concepts, have engaging and thoughtful conversations, and interact with various books and printed activities through completing the activities in this kit.

Additional Resources

Find additional kits, grade-level specific content, and more on our website at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-learning-tools>. Follow us on Facebook @MiStrongerFamily and @Michigan4H.

Evaluations



Evaluations are a critical component of our work at MSU Extension as we seek to determine whether our programs and resources are meeting the needs of families. We ask that each family who receives a kit please fill out an evaluation. The evaluation can be found at <https://bit.ly/3tK1257> or by scanning this QR code with a smartphone. The evaluation link is included in the welcome letter to parents.

Please contact Carrie Shrier (shrier@msu.edu) with any questions.

Adapted from Heads In, Hearts In, Michigan 4-H Youth Development, Michigan State University Extension, Copyright 2017

This material was funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The grant was received under award number 2016-41520-255-64, a part of the children, Youth and Families at risk program.

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EXTENSION EXTRAS LITERACY ENRICHMENT KIT

SUPPLY LIST



The Extension Extras Literacy Enrichment Kit includes five activities to support the literacy development of young children. Below are the instructions on how to assemble the kit as well as the supply list and suggested children's books.

Instructions:

1. Select a container to hold your kit (box, plastic container, bag, etc.).
2. Purchase items on the supply list.
3. Print out the welcome letter, five literacy activities and supplemental resources.
4. Assemble the kit.
5. Distribute to families.



Supply List

- Markers
- Spring action clothespins (12)
- Colored baskets (5)
- Fine tipped permanent marker
- Hair gel (1 Bottle)
- Food coloring
- Glitter
- Blunt safety scissors
- Glue stick (2)
- Pipe cleaners/chenille stems (12)
- Crayons
- Clear packing tape
- Small notepad
- Gallon size bags (2)
- Printed copies of welcome letter, activities and supplemental materials.



Suggested Children's Books

- **There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Seashell** by Lucille Colandro
- Rhyming books such as **Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes** by Gina Baek and **Each Peach, Pear, Plum** by Janet Ahlberg and Allan Ahlberg
- Alphabet books such as **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom** by Bill Martin Jr.

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EXTENSION EXTRAS ENRICHMENTS

Hands-on literacy activities to help your children learn and grow



Welcome to the Extension Extras Literacy Enrichment Kit!

Michigan State University Extension is excited to provide you with opportunities for literacy learning and enrichment at home! In this kit, you will find five literacy development activities.

Each Extension Extras activity explains the literacy skill your child will be focusing on and provides a list of the necessary supplies to complete the activity and step-by-step directions.

For more ideas and resources including upcoming classes, educational videos and more, follow us on Facebook @MiStrongerFamily or on the web at www.msue.msu.edu.



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Literacy Development

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Hands-On, Minds-On!

Hands-on experiences provide meaning to words. Research shows that when children are engaged in activities that require movement, talking and listening, it activates multiple areas of the brain and they are more likely to retain information. Hands-on projects engage children who are tactile and kinesthetic learners—those who learn best through movement. They also engage children who are visual and auditory learners—those who learn best by seeing or hearing.

Evaluations



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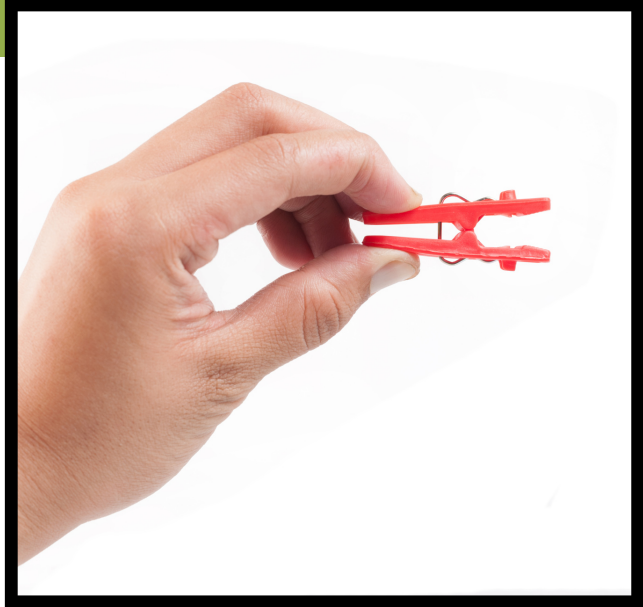


Birds Eating Worms

Fine motor development and hand-eye coordination are important for writing. Children develop these “finger skills” when they play with a toy or pinch fingers together to pick up food or other objects. Young children need lots of opportunities to practice activities that will strengthen the muscles of the hand and require the eyes and hands to work together.

Children playing with this activity will work on these skills by grasping, opening and closing the clothespins. With your support, have the child strengthen their math skills by counting when placing the “worm” in the basket.





Birds Eating Worms

Supplies

- Bird handout
- Chenille stems/pipe cleaners (different colors)
- Clothespins with spring (5)
- Baskets/bowls
- Glue stick
- Pair of child safe scissors
- Plastic bag for storage

Directions

1. Cut out the birds on the birds worksheet using child safe scissors.
2. Glue each bird onto a clothespin. Allow the glue to dry.
3. Using the glue stick, help the child glue the backside of the bird card onto the clothespin.
4. Cut chenille stems into four pieces and bend them to resemble worms. (Adults may need to cut them.)
5. Have fun pretending to be a bird eating a worm!

How to use

1. Put eight to 10 "worms" on the table.
2. Set out an empty bowl or basket.
3. Encourage children to use the clothespin "birds" to pick up the chenille stem worms by pinching the clothespin with their fingers to make it open or close.
4. Count the worms as the birds drop them into the basket. Ask children to identify the color of the worms or birds.



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Bird Handout





EXTENSION EXTRAS ENRICHMENTS

Hands-on literacy activities to help your children learn and grow



Cereal Box Search

Young people learn to read in a variety of ways. One way children learn to read is through books. However, they also learn to read through magazines, billboards, recipes, and everyday items such as cereal boxes. Children learn to read from text (words and letters) that is displayed on everyday items - which is known as environmental print.

Environmental print is a part of everyday life. For new readers, environmental print helps children understand how we use reading in our everyday life. Cereal boxes are colorful and interesting. The Cereal Box Search uses cereal boxes as an example of environmental print for three different and fun learning activities.





Cereal Box Search Supplies

- “Your Favorite Cereal Box” worksheet
- “Cereal Box Creative Story” worksheet
- “Cereal Box Search” worksheet
- Writing and drawing utensils such as crayons, markers, pencils
- Empty cereal boxes (6-8)

Directions:

Grades K-1: Using the “Your Favorite Cereal Box” worksheet and crayons or markers, draw the front of your favorite cereal box or one that you have to look at. Copy some of the words.

Grades 2-3: Using the “Cereal Box Creative Story” worksheet and pencils, write a story about one of the cereal boxes. What did it do? Where did it go? Be creative! Younger children can tell an adult their story and the adult can write the words down.

Grades 4-5: Using the “Cereal Box Search” worksheet, a cereal box and pencils, see if your child can answer all of the questions. Younger children can complete this activity with help reading and writing.

How to use:

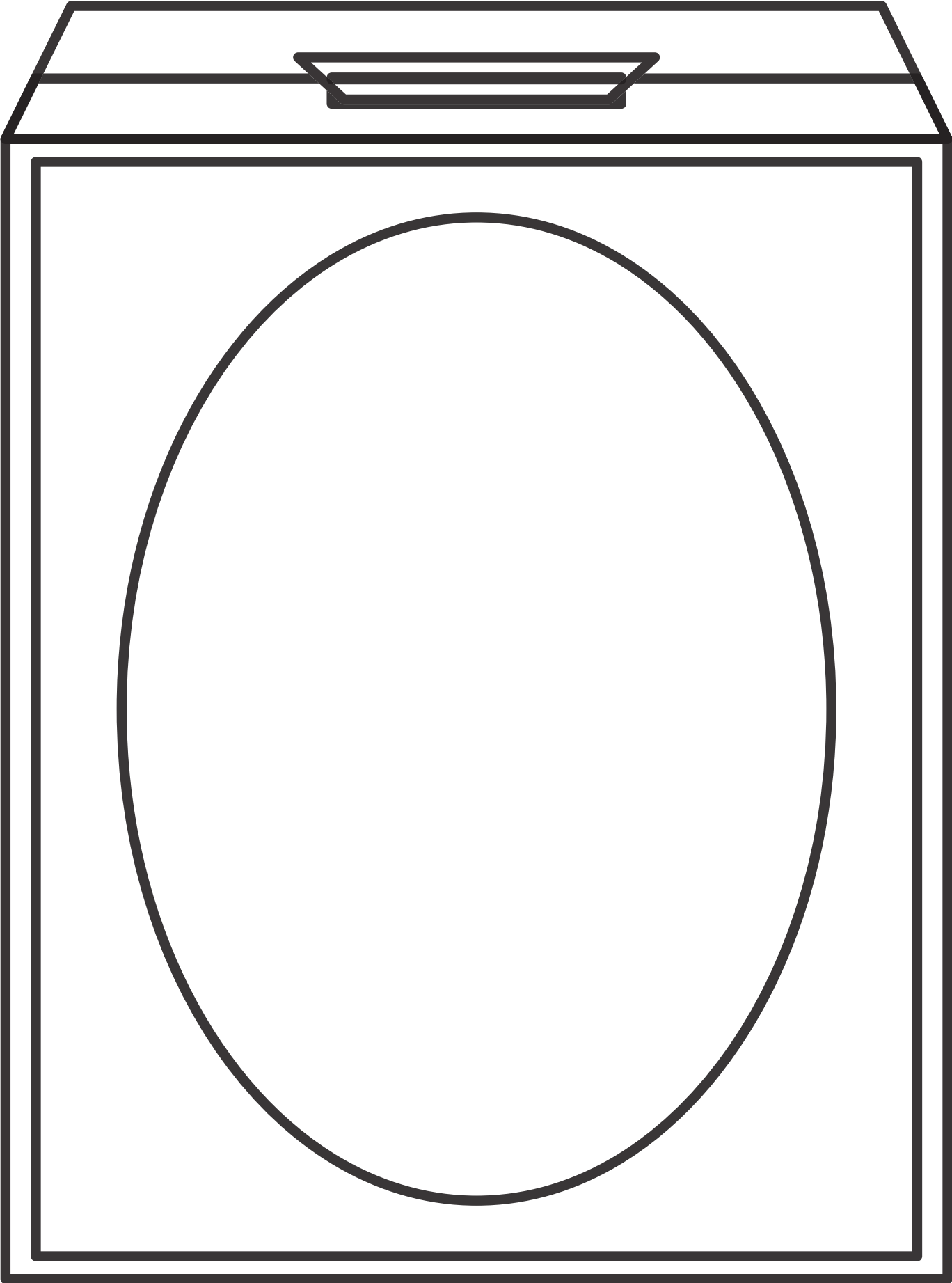
In this activity, you will use the cereal boxes to draw the front of the cereal box, creative writing while writing about imaginary adventures involving the cereal box or participate in a search with the cereal box.

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Your Favorite Cereal Box Worksheet



Cereal Box Search Worksheet

What is the name of this cereal?

Find three words that start with the same letter. List them below:

1.

2.

3.

List three colors that you see on the box:

1.

2.

3.

What are the first four ingredients in the cereal:

1.

2.

3.

4.

What company makes this cereal?

Draw the picture on the box.

How many calories are in each serving?

What is the name of the cereal?



Can you find this symbol?
What does it mean?



EXTENSION EXTRAS ENRICHMENTS

Hands-on literacy activities to help your children learn and grow



Clothespin Letters

This activity will help children learn and recognize letters, which will eventually become a combination that creates a word. Letter recognition is an important developmental milestone. The ability to recognize letters is the key to the success of your child's future reading ability. When participating in this activity, your child will also be using small muscles (fine motor muscles) in their fingers and hands to open and close the clothespins. Exercising these small muscles is crucial for handwriting abilities in the future.

This activity will help your child learn to recognize letters, the building blocks that combine to form words. In addition, they will spell words as they practice and develop their fine motor skills by matching clothespin letters in a word.





Clothespin Letters Supplies

- At least 50 wood or plastic clothespins with spring
- Fine-tip permanent marker
- Medium-sized baskets (2)
- “Common Words” worksheet

Directions

1. Using a felt-tipped pen, write a letter of the alphabet (A to Z) on each clothespin. Write frequently used letters such as A, C, D, E, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, R, S, T and U on multiple clothespins.
 2. Place clothespins in a basket.
 3. Cut words on the “Common Words” Worksheet apart. Place in a basket.
1. Choose a word from the basket.
 2. Look through the basket of clothespins for the letters that in combination make the word.
 3. When you find a letter, squeeze the clothespin to open it and then close it on the piece of paper, aligning it with the correct letter.
 4. Repeat the step above until all the letters needed to spell the word are covered by clothespins.
 5. Once you find and cover all the letters of the word, remove the clothespins and place them back into the basket.
 6. Choose a different word and repeat.

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Common Words Worksheet

cat	ball	dog
mom	dad	one
two	a	has
my	me	the
she	he	go
can	is	it
are	at	play
no	yes	I



EXTENSION EXTRAS ENRICHMENTS

Hands-on literacy activities to help your children learn and grow



Flip Flop Rhyming

Literacy skills are an important part of school readiness. If your child does not know how to read just yet, they can practice pre-literacy skills such as writing, recognizing letters and knowing letter sounds. For example, the letter “b” makes a “buh” sound like you hear in the word “bear.” Early literacy skills can help children get ready to start school.

Rhyming is an important pre-literacy skill because it teaches children how language works. It helps them identify letter sounds and sounds within words. Rhyming helps children experience language and learn to predict words. It’s a fun way to experience language.





Flip Flop Rhyming Supplies

- “Flip Flop Rhyming Pairs” handout
- Scissors

Directions:

1. Cut out flip-flops from the “Flip Flop Rhyming Pairs” handout.
2. Select half of a pair of flip-flops.
3. Encourage your child to say what the picture is or read the word if they are able to do so.
4. Explain to your child that rhyming words end with the same sound.
5. Help your child find the other half of the pair of flip-flops by finding a picture of something that rhymes with the picture on the first half of the flip-flop. Encourage your child to read the words on the two flip-flops to hear how they sound at the end.
6. See how many pairs of flip-flops you and your child can create and count them at the end.

How to use:

In this activity, children will practice understanding how rhyming words start with different letters or sounds but end the same way. They will match up words that rhyme by matching halves of pairs of flip-flops.



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Flip Flop Rhyming Pairs Handout

 <p>cat</p>	 <p>bat</p>	 <p>star</p>	 <p>car</p>
 <p>house</p>	 <p>mouse</p>	 <p>tree</p>	 <p>bee</p>

Flip Flop Rhyming Pairs Handout



moon



spoon



bed



sled



shell



bell



clock



sock

Flip Flop Rhyming Pairs Handout

 <p>pear</p>	 <p>bear</p>	 <p>fan</p>	 <p>pan</p>
 <p>egg</p>	 <p>leg</p>	 <p>pie</p>	 <p>tie</p>

Images © iStock.com

Flip Flop Rhyming Pairs Handout

 <p>yarn</p>	 <p>barn</p>	 <p>phone</p>	 <p>bone</p>
 <p>goat</p>	 <p>boat</p>	 <p>dog</p>	 <p>frog</p>



EXTENSION EXTRAS ENRICHMENTS

Hands-on literacy activities to help your children learn and grow



Glitter Word Work

With this activity, learners practice pre-writing skills such as shapes, letters and words. This is a multisensory activity, helping learners to retain the information they are practicing.

Writing is an important part of literacy. In order to help young children be ready to learn to read in kindergarten, they can practice pre-reading skills such as writing, recognizing letters and knowing the sounds letters make.

Children need lots of hands-on practice at home to build strong muscles in their hands, learn how to make letters, and learn letter sounds. These skills will help them be ready to learn to read and write when once they get to school. In addition, this activity offers a great therapeutic/calming effect for some children.





Glitter Word Work Supplies

- **Gallon sized freezer bags**
- **One 20 ounce bottle of hair gel**
- **Food coloring**
- **Small container of glitter**
- **Clear packing tape**
- **Word or letter lists as desired**

How to use

Using the tip of the pointer finger, write letters onto the outside of the bag while saying the letter's sound. "This is an M. M says mmmmm." Then have the child repeat the action. Older children can practice writing their name and sight words.

This activity can also be used to teach shapes and numbers by having children trace them onto the bag. The gel bags also make for a good calming sensory activity. Children can hold the bags, gently move the gel around inside, squish it from side to side or up and down or doodle and watch the gel move.

Directions

1. Combine hair gel, food coloring and glitter in a zip-top style bag.
2. Squeeze out the air from the bag and zip bag closed. Mix well.
3. Tape the zip-top closed and get started practicing letters, numbers, words and more.
4. The bag can be taped down to a level surface such as a tray or table.

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