

Here are some ideas for themes to use for family literacy bags.

You may also choose to feature a favorite children's author or expand on your program's current theme.

Children's Interests

Animals

Big Red Barn by Margaret Wise Brown
Wild Animal Baby by National Wildlife Federation

Food

Where Does Food Come From? by Shelley Rotner
Everyone Eats Bread by Janet Reed

Family

Mama, Do You Love Me?/Me Quieres, Mama?
 by Barbara Joosse
Because I Love You So Much by Guido van Genechten

Feelings

My Many Colored Days by Dr. Seuss
How Are You Peeling? by Saxton Freymann and Joost Elffers

Skills Focused

Rhyming

Wild about Books by Judy Sierra
Clap Your Hands by Lorinda Bryan Cauley

Pre-writing

Bunny Cakes by Rosemarie Wells
The Jolly Postman or Other People's Letters by Janet Ahlberg and Allan Ahlberg

Letter recognition

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr.
Alphabet Under Construction by Denise Fleming

Retelling stories

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
Mrs. McNosh Hangs up Her Wash by Sarah Weeks

Family Experiences

New Sibling

What Baby Needs by William Sears
The Berenstain Bears' New Baby by Stan and Jan Berenstain

Doctor Visits

Going to the Doctor by Stephen Cartwright
Splat the Cat Goes to the Doctor by Rob Scotton

Moving

A Kiss Goodbye by Audrey Penn
Henry and Mudge and Annie's Good Move by Cynthia Rylant

Death and grief

The Fall of Freddie the Leaf by Leo Buscaglia
Goodbye Mousie by Robert Harris
I Miss You by Pat Thomas

Starting Kindergarten

First Day Jitters by Julie Danneberg
Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten by Joseph Slate

Differences

I Accept You as You Are! by David Parker
It's Okay to Be Different by Todd Parr

Positive behavior guidance

My Many Colored Days by Dr. Seuss
How Are You Peeling? by Saxton Freymann and Joost Elffers



We would love to see YOUR family literacy bags. Share your pictures of your family literacy bags!

Facebook or [Twitter](#) @MDEngageEarly, or email early.engagementmsde@maryland.gov.

Here are a few ideas to get you started with family literacy bags.
Find more ideas for [Family Adventure Packs by Reading Rockets](#) or make up your own!

Positive
Guidance
Theme

Books: *Hands Are Not for Hitting* by Martine Agassi
Feet Are Not for Kicking by Elizabeth Verdick

Materials: Writing materials (chunky pencils, crayons, colored pencils), a journal with no lines, flashlight, Family Activity card

Feelings

Books: *How Are You Peeling?*
by Saxton Freymann and Joost Elffers
My Many Colored Days by Dr. Seuss

Materials: Nonbreakable mirror, box of crayons, paper, individual emotions written on paper, Family Activity card

Letter
Recognition

Books: *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr.
Alphabet Under Construction by Denise Fleming

Materials: Foam letters (make sure you have at least one of every letter), bag with small items (e.g., play food items, ball, doll, plastic animals, etc.), Family Activity Card

We would love to see YOUR family literacy bags. Share your pictures of your family literacy bags!
[Facebook](#) or [Twitter @MDEngageEarly](#), or email early.engagementmsde@maryland.gov.



Positive Behavior Guidance Literacy Bag

We are so glad you have brought home a Family Literacy Bag!
We hope you and your child enjoy the activities below.

[Read the books aloud with your child](#) and repeat them throughout the two-week checkout period.
Below are fun activities that promote positive behavior.

This bag includes

Hands Are Not for Hitting by Martine Agassi, *Feet Are Not for Kicking* by Elizabeth Verdick, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, a journal, flashlight, Family Activity Card

Activity 1

After reading one of the books, talk to your child about what can be done with hands. Trace your child's hand or foot into the journal as many times as you like. Together, write an idea for what you can do with a hand (or foot) in each individual tracing. Other families will also fill in their child's hands and feet to create a special book for the children.

Activity 2

Turn off the lights and make hand shadows on the walls. Talk about all the positive things that hands can do.

Activity 3

Play charades with the different actions described in the book.

We hope you enjoy these activities! Please share your experience with us.



Feelings Literacy Bag

We are so glad you have brought home a Family Literacy Bag!
We hope you and your child enjoy the activities below.

Read the books aloud with your child and repeat them throughout the two-week checkout period.
Below are fun activities that explore feelings.

This bag includes

How Are You Peeling? by Saxton Freymann and Joost Elffers, *My Many Colored Days* by Dr. Seuss, nonbreakable mirror, box of crayons, paper, individual emotions written on paper, Family Activity card

Activity 1

Take turns making faces in the mirror that relate to the feelings described in the books. Ask your child, “What makes you feel this way?”

Activity 2

While you have this literacy bag, ask your child to choose a color that represents how they feel that day. Have them draw a picture and label their picture with the feeling. Collect the pictures and staple them together to make a feelings book for your child.

Activity 3

Choose an emotion card. Read it aloud. Ask your child to act out the emotion. You can also act out the emotion and ask your child to guess the feeling.

We hope you enjoy these activities! Please share your experience with us.



Letter Recognition Literacy Bag

We are so glad you have brought home a Family Literacy Bag!
We hope you and your child enjoy the activities below.

[Read the books aloud with your child](#) and repeat them throughout the two-week checkout period.
Below are fun activities that promote letter recognition.

This bag includes

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr., *Alphabet Under Construction* by Denise Fleming, foam letters, bag with small items (**Tip For Providers:** include each individual item in the bag on the materials list), Family Activity Card

Activity 1

Take turns picking a letter and ask your child questions like, “What is the letter?”, “What sound does this letter make?” or, “Can you think of a word that begins with this letter?”

Activity 2

Choose an item from the bag. Ask your child to tell you the item’s name and the letter that the name begins with.

Activity 3

Spread out the letters on the table. Name each family member’s name and pick out the letters in each name.

We hope you enjoy these activities! Please share your experience with us.