

# The Very Ready Reading Program



**Small Steps, Big Results**  
Enriching Early Literacy Storytimes



**Upstart**  
a DEMCO company

# Windows of Opportunity



As a librarian, you have the power to provide life-altering early literacy skills for children from birth to age 5, **and your role has never been more important.**

**2.5x**

**greater brain activity in  
3-year-olds than adults**

**#1**

**determinant of language  
and literacy is parent  
involvement**

**67%**

**of an adult's vocabulary  
is based on the  
number of words  
known at age 5**

# Enriching Storytime



**What if you can accomplish more, starting where you're at now?**

An enriching storytime is filled with reading, crafts, playing, and these 4 essentials.



**Sharing** — Sharing books, songs and rhymes with children from a very young age builds a strong foundation for early literacy.

**Consistent format** — Repeatable, purposeful literacy activities significantly contribute to a child's reading readiness. Through library storytimes and reinforcement at home, children gain confidence, master songs and rhymes and acquire skills.

**Parent involvement** — Storytimes are a powerful platform to reach parents. By modeling simple, deliberate behaviors that caregivers can share with their children at home, you positively influence the home environment and extend learning all week long.

**Rhymes & Songs** — Research shows music and language are so intertwined that music is critical to a child's language development.



**Foster learning at home,  
in your community,  
all day, every day**



# The Very Ready Reading Program

Elevate drop-in storytimes to a comprehensive early literacy program, spanning birth to age 5.

## Research Based

Because a child's earliest years set the foundation for all learning to come, The Very Ready Reading Program includes **3 curriculums** (Birth–24 months, Ages 2–3 and Ages 4–5) that **mirror child brain development**.

## Easy

Ready-to-use storytimes give you everything you need to deliver fun, purposeful storytimes and effectively involve parents at the library and at home.

## Engaging

The endearing artwork of Eric Carle welcomes parents and children to themed storytimes filled with books, songs and activities they will love.



## About the Developers

### Sue McCleaf Nespeca

Sue has more than 30 years of experience in youth services library work and holds master's degrees in Early Childhood Education and Library Science. She was a national trainer for Every Child Ready to Read®.

### Dr. Pam Schiller

Pam holds a doctorate in Child Development from Texas Woman's University. She has authored more than 30 prominent teacher resource books, written children's books and created music CDs and DVDs to enhance literacy.

# Your Time to Shine

Making a difference. That's what matters to you. The Very Ready Reading Program gives your passion wings, without adding to your workload. Your storytimes can set the foundation for children's lives.



## Why The Very Ready Reading Program? Why now?

Less than 3 in 10 four-year-olds are enrolled in pre-school programs. For many kids, the library is their pre-school and you are their teacher. The Very Ready Reading Program allows you to:

- Maximize critical years in a child's brain development
- Educate and empower parents with proven tips and take-home resources
- See how the program's consistency builds children's confidence and knowledge
- Create joy-filled educational experiences for children and caregivers
- Boost storytime attendance
- Make a greater impact in your community — help more children become reading ready by kindergarten

## Brain Facts



Early literacy experiences are linked to children successfully learning to read later in life



By 1 month of age, a baby's brain cell connections increase

# 20-fold

Child brain development requires 3 things as easy as

# ABC

 Attention, Bonding and Communication



# Small Steps...

## 7 Days • 7 Ways

The Very Ready Reading Program empowers you to successfully partner with parents and caregivers. Your storytime and program handouts teach caregivers 7 simple activities they can share with their children every day. Soon, literacy building becomes a natural part of parent/child interactions. Best of all, it doesn't feel like work for anyone!

It's about sharing ... helping caregivers share sounds, words, rhymes, songs, stories, playtime and books with their children anywhere, anytime.



# ...Big Results!

## Proof Positive: Chicago Library's Storytimes Better Serve Community

**L**ibrarians at the Vernon Area Public Library in the Chicagoland area are big fans of The Very Ready Reading Program — so much so that they invited neighboring libraries to a forum to discuss it.

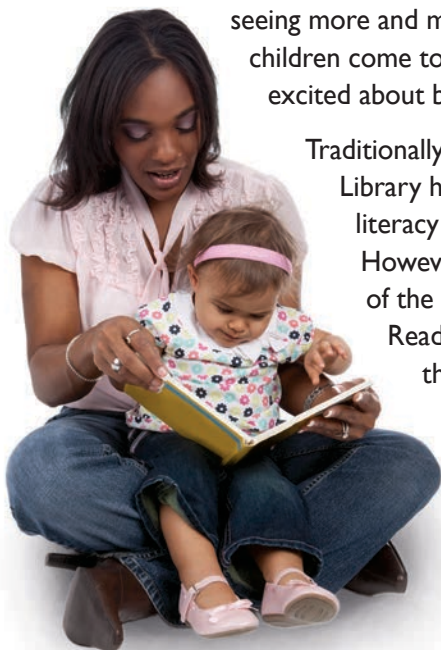


“I’m able to teach parents and caregivers that sharing words or sharing stories doesn’t have to be actual stories or books, it could be as simple as telling stories about grandma or grandpa.”

**“I use The Very Ready Reading Program to talk to parents about the simple things they can do at home to reinforce storytime.”**

– Heather Blake

“I believe in the program,” says Heather Blake, Early Literacy Coordinator. “The research and theory are there. Plus, I’m seeing more and more parents and children come to storytimes and get excited about books.”



Traditionally, the Vernon Area Public Library has had a strong early literacy storytime experience. However, upon meeting one of the developers for The Very Ready Reading Program, the librarians decided to make some important changes. For example, they love the program’s songs and parent engagement resources.

It’s a win-win at Vernon Area Public Library: parents are learning along with their children how to infuse literacy into their everyday lives and librarians feel they are providing a benefit to patrons.

“It’s incredible to watch,” says Blake. “We’ll get feedback from parents saying, ‘My 14-month-old was doing the motions from storytime!’”

View videos and sample materials at [demco.com](http://demco.com), Search: **Very Ready**



LEARN MORE — Visit [demco.com](http://demco.com), Search: **Very Ready**



# Grow Your Storytime

Deliver exactly what children need, when they need it. Three different age-appropriate curriculums provide the building blocks for children to develop early literacy skills.

## What's inside?

### Sturdy Storytime Cards

Provide a complete storytime from start to finish. Include literacy tips to share with parents during storytime.

### Presenter Tip Sheets

Provide book suggestions, craft ideas and additional information for each program.

### Caregiver Tip Sheets

Provide parents with easy activities to incorporate into daily routines. The song lyrics and rhymes from the program are also included.

### Music CDs

Feature the songs from every storytime, recorded at age-appropriate tempos.

### Color My World

Storytime/Circle Time Program for Birth-2

**Opening Song**  
(sing to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, (Clap hands)  
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, (Clap hands)  
If you're happy to be here, then place a smile there, (Point to mouth)  
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, (Clap hands)  
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, (Clap hands)  
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, (Clap hands)  
If you're ready to have some fun, then join in everyone, (Holds hands to join in)  
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, (Clap hands)

**Opening Book**  
What Color Is Your Underwear? by Sim Unger OR Baby's Colors, by Karen Katz

**Early Literacy Tip:** With your baby, search your environment for colors and name everything you find. You can say, "I spy with my little eye something red! Do you see anything red?" Young toddlers may begin to point to an object. Be sure to name the things you find and their specific color (e.g., "This is a turquoise sock." "Yes, the apple is red!").

**Bounce Rhyme or Song**  
**Bumping Up and Down in My Little Red Wagon**  
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon, (bounce child up and down in lap)  
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,  
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,  
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,  
Won't you be my darling!

### Color My World

Storytime/Circle Time Tip Sheet for Librarians

**About This Storytime**  
During the first two years of life, a child's open air assembly skills for the writing of color and shape. Color words are also we use often as much as numbers, children and rhyme.

**Songs**  
This storytime includes five songs. The same opening and closing songs should be used each week if this program is part of a series. Always provide some type of movement or response to accompany each song, keeping the movements simple. Caregivers can rock the child back and forth, bounce the child in time to the music, or clap the child's hands. Toddlers may be able to clap and make other movements on their own or with a little help. Using recorded music during the storytime is fine, although it's best to sing songs with a live voice so that very young children can hear the words and the sounds making up each word. Recorded music is often used for this purpose. For each song in this storytime, we include a reference to a performance of either the song (found and typed) or the same song with lyrics printed in the storytime. The Very Ready Reading Program includes a CD with vocal and instrumental versions of many of the songs, recorded at an appropriate tempo.

**Songs for This Storytime:**

- Opening Song: "If You're Happy to Be Here" (sing to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")  
Very Ready Reading Program CD, track 1
- "Bumping Up and Down in My Little Red Wagon"  
Very Ready Reading Program CD, track 14
- "Color Song" (sing to the tune of "The More We Get Together")  
Very Ready Reading Program CD, track 20
- "I Am Looking" (sing to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")  
Very Ready Reading Program CD, track 6
- "A Tale of a Tail"  
Very Ready Reading Program CD, track 16
- Closing Song: "The More We Get Together"  
Very Ready Reading Program CD, track 16

### Color My World

Parent/Caregiver Tip Sheet

Here are ideas and activities to try this week with your child. Each activity is based on one of the 7 Days + 7 Ways principles of early literacy development and is designed to engage your child, stimulate his or her literacy skills, and enhance the bonds between you.

My wonderful board books about colors are a hit with babies, biggest and boldest images, so that even the smallest babies can tell your child to learn the colors; she will learn them naturally. Your baby will make all sorts of funny sounds. Repeat them back, and imitate. This will help baby hear sounds and understand that you are listening.

There are lots of colors to talk about at the grocery store. Make a shopping list and pointing out the rainbow of colors you can find just in the grocery store.

Here are some of the favorite rhymes we used in today's storytime. Then find someone in the color named in the rhyme and point it out. For example, there (find birds, blue birds, etc.) and then point out socks, a pillow, a cup, etc.

We up songs about colors and sing to your baby. For example, to the tune of "The More We Get Together," sing "Kays has a blue shirt on, blue shirt on, blue shirt on, and it looks just like this!" or "Jason has a big brown dog, big dog, Jason has a big brown dog, and it looks just like this."

Let us tell the story "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" using animals.

Make a color sorting game by moving baby-safe objects of different colors. Then make piles of objects based on color, talking about the color.

### Color My World

Storytime/Circle Time Program for Birth-2

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**Bounce Rhyme or Song**  
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Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,  
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,  
Won't you be my darling!

## Curriculum I: Birth-24 Months





For sample materials and more information, visit **demco.com**, Search: **Very Ready**

## Munching on Lunch!

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Here are ideas and activities to try this week with your child. Each activity is based on one of the 7 Days + 7 Ways principles of early literacy development and introduces to or reinforces concepts introduced in storytime.

**Presenter Tip Sheet**

**About This Storytime**

**on Lunch!**

**Storytime Program for Ages 2-3**

**Opening Song**  
**Moving Hands** (Ages 2-3)  
 (going to the tune of "The Farmer in the Duff")  
 Put your hands on your head, (Cross arms and sway from side to side)  
 Put your hands on your knees, (Cross arms and sway from side to side)  
 Put your hands on your chest, (Cross arms and sway from side to side)  
 Put your hands on your feet, (Cross arms and sway from side to side)  
 The happier we'll be,  
 The happier we'll be.

**Songs**

**Chorus**  
 We sing some songs and rhymes, (Two fingers point to mouth)  
 We sing some songs and rhymes, (Two fingers point to mouth)  
 High-ho, the derry, derry, (Two fingers point to mouth)  
 High-ho, the derry, derry, (Two fingers point to mouth)

**Rhymes/Chants**

**Chorus**  
 We sing some songs and rhymes, (Two fingers point to mouth)  
 We sing some songs and rhymes, (Two fingers point to mouth)  
 High-ho, the derry, derry, (Two fingers point to mouth)  
 High-ho, the derry, derry, (Two fingers point to mouth)

**CD**  
 The Very Ready Reading Program  
 Disc 1

## Good Friends

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Here are ideas and activities to try this week with your child. Each activity is based on one of the 7 Days + 7 Ways principles of early literacy development and introduces to or reinforces concepts introduced in storytime.

**Presenter Tip Sheet**

**About This Storytime**

**Good Friends**

**Storytime Program for Ages 4-5**

**Opening Song**  
**Moving Hands** (Ages 4-5)  
 (going to the tune of "The Farmer in the Duff")  
 Put your hands on your head, (Cross arms and sway from side to side)  
 Put your hands on your knees, (Cross arms and sway from side to side)  
 Put your hands on your chest, (Cross arms and sway from side to side)  
 Put your hands on your feet, (Cross arms and sway from side to side)  
 The happier we'll be,  
 The happier we'll be.

**Songs**

**Chorus**  
 We sing some songs and rhymes, (Two fingers point to mouth)  
 We sing some songs and rhymes, (Two fingers point to mouth)  
 High-ho, the derry, derry, (Two fingers point to mouth)  
 High-ho, the derry, derry, (Two fingers point to mouth)

**Rhymes/Chants**

**Chorus**  
 We sing some songs and rhymes, (Two fingers point to mouth)  
 We sing some songs and rhymes, (Two fingers point to mouth)  
 High-ho, the derry, derry, (Two fingers point to mouth)  
 High-ho, the derry, derry, (Two fingers point to mouth)

**CD**  
 The Very Ready Reading Program  
 Disc 1



### Curriculum II: Ages 2-3

### Curriculum III: Ages 4-5

3 years old

4 years old

5 years old

Simple Phrases

Fine Motor Skills

Alphabet Recognition



# 3 Curriculums

The Very Ready Reading Program is a comprehensive early literacy program for children ages birth to 5. You benefit from 3 age-appropriate curriculums that can be purchased individually or as a Complete Program for the best value.



## **Curriculum I** **Birth–24 months**

Emphasis on: Caregivers

*Features:*

- Shorter storytime format
- How to share board books, nursery rhymes and songs with babies
- How to engage babies in rhymes and songs
- Instructions for caregivers to move babies' arms or legs to do actions that accompany rhymes and songs
- Language enrichment for babies
- Songs with simple melodies, sung at slower tempo with 1–2 verses
- Repeatable rhymes with lap games and simple hand, feet and finger games
- Book, rhyme and song selections develop babies' beginning vocabulary and introduce them to different sounds
- Follow-up activities based on baby's ability level

## **Curriculum II** **Ages 2–3**

Emphasis on: Children and Caregivers

*Features:*

- Slightly longer program format
- Paper book recommendations with 2–3 lines of text per page
- Fine motor skills reinforcement
- Instructions for caregivers to do the rhymes and songs along with their child
- Fingerplays and whole-hand motions, such as opening and closing hands, pointing various fingers in countdown rhymes or using whole-arm motions
- Songs with simple melodies, 2–3 verses
- Embedded storytime activities that allow for a lot of movement
- Follow-up activities based on children's ability levels

## **Curriculum III** **Ages 4–5**

Emphasis on: Children and Caregivers

*Features:*

- Stories, songs and rhymes increase in length and complexity as appropriate for the attention span of this age group
- Ways to encourage caregiver participation in storytimes
- Longer book recommendations with several sentences per page
- Three stories with 1–2 activities, such as active rhymes, finger rhymes, creative dramatics, poems or songs between stories
- Songs with several verses, more instrumental accompaniment that are sung at a normal speed
- Follow-up activities are more detailed and complex and further develop book themes



# All You Need

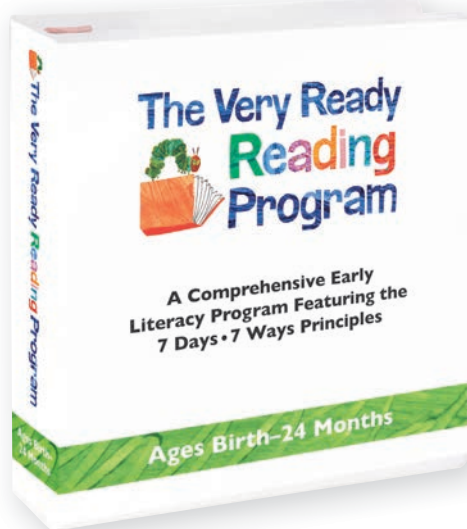
## **BEST VALUE!**

### **Complete Program**

Your comprehensive early literacy program is right here! Spans birth–age 5 with 60 storytimes, parent and presenter tips and more. Also includes posters, 200 bookmarks and 200 sharing guides.

**H10364**

**\$299.00**



### **Individual Curriculum Sets Include:**

- 20 sturdy storytime cards
- Presenter tip sheets
- Caregiver tip sheets
- 1–2 music CDs
- Reproducible handouts

### **Curriculum I: Birth–24 Months**

**H10439**

**\$109.00**

### **Curriculum II: Ages 2–3**

**H10307**

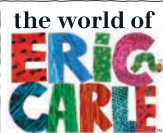
**\$109.00**

### **Curriculum III: Ages 4–5**

**H10363**

**\$109.00**

**Flash Cards, Growth Charts,  
Mini Posters & more at  
[demco.com](http://demco.com)**



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# Small Steps, Big Results

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