



Lesson Focus: Early Literacy Development

In the words of writer Emilie Buchwald, “Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.” Being held by a parent during storytime promotes bonding, helps babies connect the sounds of words with pictures, provides a natural time to engage in conversations and vocal play, and even models for little ones how to read a book. But early literacy development for babies encompasses so much more than snuggling with your baby after a bath and reading *Goodnight Moon* (no matter how much we love that book!).

At Kindermusik, we understand that early literacy extends beyond a parent’s lap. It involves the development of key skills, such as cross-lateral movement, spatial awareness, eye-hand coordination, and eye tracking. Each week in class we intentionally provide music-and-movement activities to support all the areas of your baby’s early literacy development. For example, we move in a variety of cross-lateral ways during “Wash the Dishes,” label the movements in “I Like to Sing,” and even develop spatial awareness during “Water Come a Me Eye.” All of these seemingly unrelated skills combine to help your little one eventually read the words on the page of a favorite book—a moment in which you might find water come a *your eye!*

Everyday Connection: *Mr. Brown Can Mooove.* Throughout the day, support your baby’s early literacy development by adding in some of your favorite movement activities from class. Have fun with a little cross-lateral movement after a diaper change or try labeling a movement as you rock your baby before naptime.