



FAIRLEE PUBLIC LIBRARY ~ Judy Russell, Library Director

PIZZA, PIZZA!

Featured Early Literacy Skill: Print Awareness
learning that those words on the page mean something!

Opening Song: *Hello, How Do You Do*
Hello from Riley Raccoon
Memory Basket

Parent Aside: Today we are focusing on Print Awareness, which encompasses everything about a book—the words on the page, the pages themselves, and even the covers of a book. It's easy to forget that we once learned how to handle a book—which way to hold it, turning the pages from front to back—it all seems so obvious, right?! Watch as I read the first book. [Here I will begin by showing the book to the children—upside-down.]

Book: **The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza**, by Philemon Sturges and Amy Walrod (New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1999). In this version of the traditional tale, the duck, the dog, and the cat refuse to help the Little Red Hen make a pizza but do get to participate when the time comes to eat it.

Song: (To the tune of *Shortnin' Bread*.)

I can make a pizza! You can, too!
Listen and you'll know just what to do.

Every little baker loves mixing, mixing
Every little baker loves mixing dough!

Every little baker loves kneading, kneading
Every little baker loves kneading dough!

Every little baker loves tossing, tossing
Every little baker loves tossing dough!

Parent Aside: Repetition in a book like *The Little Red Hen* is a useful learning tool when it comes to print awareness. Trace your finger along below the words as they are repeated on each page. The familiarity with the letters will grow and grow. Our song builds on the same ideas, too. We'll talk more about rhythm and rhyme in another story time.

Flannel Board Activity: Making pizza! (Create felt ingredients for various pizza ingredients—crust, cheese, green peppers, pepperoni. Hand ingredients, while naming them descriptively, to the children and have them come up to the flannel board as you tell the story of making a pizza. Everyone gets to participate at least once.)

Book: **Pete's a Pizza**, by William Steig (New York: HarperCollins, 1998). When Pete feels miserable because rain makes it impossible to play ball outdoors, his father finds a fun indoor game to play with his son.

Parent Aside: I love *Pete's a Pizza* for so many reasons, mostly because it is so full of love. For our purposes today, though, it is a great book to teach print awareness, mainly because the progression of Pete becoming a complete pizza makes it exciting for the child to turn the page and see what happens next. Be sure to let your child do the page-turning once in a while. Don't make too many rules about how to handle a book. They are replaceable, remember!

Ending Song: *It's Time to Say Goodbye*

Take-Home Activity Idea: Make a pizza with a cardboard crust and construction paper ingredients. Or, make some real pizza together!

Today's books:

