



# **Literacy and Young Children**

## **Introduction**

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**January 2002**

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Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities  
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Dear Colleague,

The positive effect that literacy experiences have on the reading and writing development of young children has been well established. In recent years, attention has been particularly focused on the early literacy needs of all children. In 1998, the National Research Council published a report, *Preventing Reading Difficulties in Young Children*, which synthesized research findings into guidelines for helping children become successful readers. In their report, Snow, Burns, and Griffin (1998) documented that to prepare children for reading instruction in the early grades, young children (birth through age five) need to be exposed to high quality language and literacy environments. While most young children do not read and write in the conventional sense, they do acquire aspects of literacy knowledge that set the stage for later reading achievement. This packet has been provided to enable you to identify information and strategies related to the literacy needs of young children. Please disseminate as appropriate.

Gathering this information has been a collaborative effort of our staff. We hope that when you have taken the time to review this packet you will find that it contains helpful information. After you have examined the packet, please complete the enclosed evaluation and return it in the self-addressed envelope. Thank you for your interest and your efforts toward the development of quality services and programs for young children and their families.

Sincerely,

David P. Lindeman, Ph.D.  
KITS Director

## Literacy and Young Children Packet Evaluation

This packet has been developed as a resource to enable you to understand the issues related to young children and emergent literacy. The packet contents were chosen based on your requests and needs assessment results. We would like you to evaluate how helpful this packet has been for you. Please respond to the following questions and return this form to us in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

Please check the parts of the packet that you found most helpful. In the space provided briefly tell us how or why each part was helpful to you.

*Articles*

*Resources*

*Activities*

Please identify why each part you checked was helpful:

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Please check the parts of the packet that you found were not helpful to you. Then in the space provided, briefly tell us how or why each part was of little use to you.

*Articles*

*Resources*

*Activities*

Please identify what about this part(s) made it of little use:

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Please tell us what was not available in the packet that would have been helpful to you.

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Please describe how you plan to use the information in this packet.

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Other comments or suggestions for future packets:

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**Thank you for completing this form and returning it to us!**  
**Kansas Inservice Training System**  
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