

## What your Library offers:



The Library has assembled an Early Literacy Package for every expectant mother in Marion County. Each Package contains:

- Womb Literacy information
- Child development information
- Free books
- Free baby gift
- Reading records



### 100 Books Before Birth

Each expectant family is encouraged to set a goal of reading 100 books to their baby before birth. Reading records are available to aid in this endeavor, and families will earn one free book for every ten they read to their baby.

### Speakers & Special Programs

Throughout the year, the Library will host speakers and special programs. Dates and times are available on our website and Facebook page.



For more information or to claim your Early Literacy Package, contact us at:

601-736-5516

smrlcolumbia@gmail.com



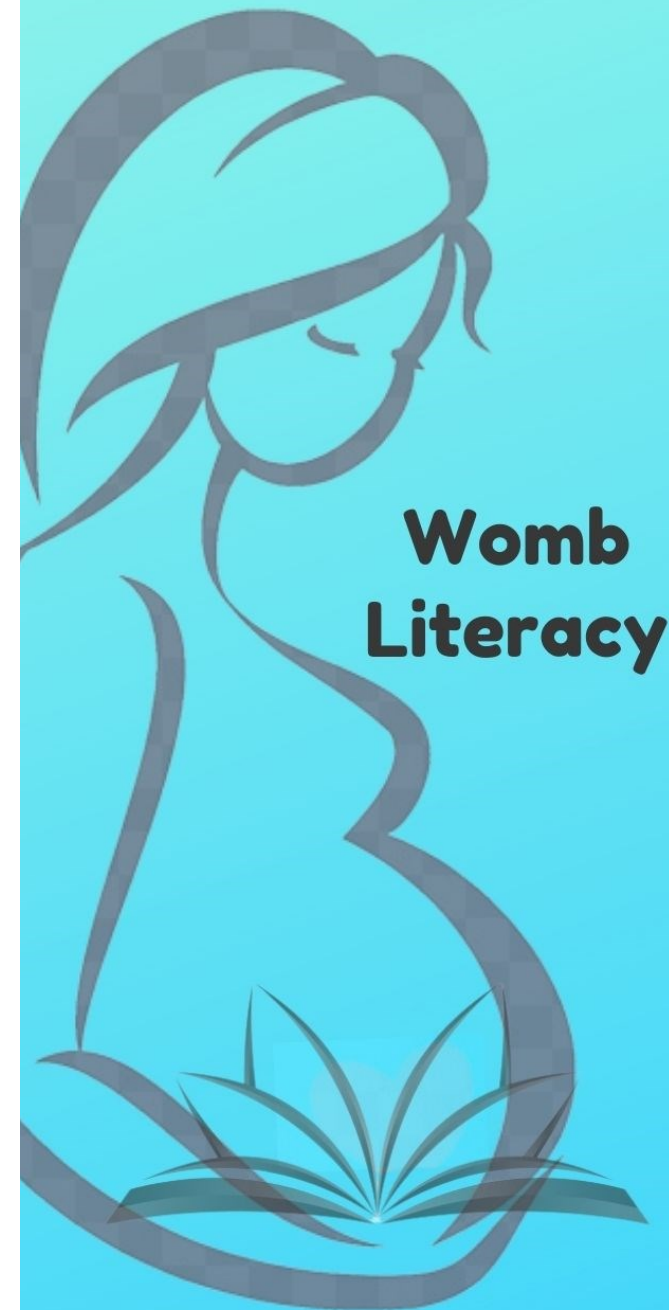
<https://smrlcolumbia.wixsite.com/mslibrary>

### Remember:

1. Reading to a baby during pregnancy helps family members take an active role in preparing for baby.
2. Babies enjoy the rhythm of language.
3. The sound of your voice is calming and soothing to your baby.
4. Reading to your baby now will make reading a part of everyday family life after your baby is born.
5. Reading time can be relaxing time as you anticipate your baby's arrival.



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## Womb Literacy

Columbia-Marion County

Public Library

900 Broad Street  
Columbia, MS 39429

(601) 736-5516





## Reasons to read to your baby before they're born:

- Develop a stronger bond before birth. It can be hard to conceptualize the source of those kicks and pokes and morning sickness as a real person rather than an idea. This makes it difficult for some moms to connect with their child before meeting them. Reading to your baby helps encourage and solidify those bonds. The best part? Your partner can also join in.
- You're starting a good habit. Reading with kids has been shown to improve language, school performance, and concentration. By starting early, you're laying the foundation to continue doing so once they're older.
- Get comfortable with reading out loud. Reading aloud is a skill that, like any other skill, gets better with practice. Sharpening that skill now means you'll feel more comfortable when there's a tiny person staring back at you.
- Everything your baby hears becomes building blocks for language. Research shows that babies learn language in the womb as early as 30 weeks.

## Things to remember for reading to baby while pregnant:

If possible, go with a meaningful book. Choose something from you or your partner's childhood or another book that has meaning for you.

Pick something you LIKE. Find a page-turner or something funny that will keep you engaged and looking forward to reading.

Avoid anything too simple. Skip the one word per page alphabet books for now, and aim for something that uses complete sentences. You're teaching your little one how to speak, after all.

## Other Resources

The Reading Womb

<https://thereadingwomb.wordpress.com/>

Scholastic Raise a Reader Blog

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/raise-a-reader-blog.html>

The Urban Child Institute

<http://www.urbanchildinstitute.org>

## What is Womb Literacy?

Womb literacy is a project aimed at providing early literacy resources to expectant and new parents to increase awareness that reading to a baby before birth is critical to their growth and well-being. Reading to a baby while pregnant can have many benefits for the parent as well as the baby. Taking time out of each week leading up to delivery to read to your bump is not only introducing a great time for bonding, but you are also laying the foundation for a habit that can benefit them the rest of their life.