Key Theme: Early exposure to books and plenty of time for talk and enjoyment of the story appear to be key factors in the child’s acquisition of literacy.

Chapter Four: Books to Begin On
Before you read, browse the informal outline that begins the chapter. Note that this chapter deals with ten types of books. As you read the chapter, read for elements that will differentiate the books. Also review methods of evaluating the different types of books. If you have one, please bring your Mother Goose collection to class.

Developing Initial Literacy
- What can a very young child learn about reading?
- Keep noticing the links between literature and early literacy.

Babies First Books
- What kinds of books appeal to babies?
- Skim the bulk of this section.

Toy Books
- What is the purpose of toy books?
- Skim the descriptions of specific books.
- Read for suggestions on how one might evaluate and use the books with children

Finger Songs and Nursery Rhymes
- Note the distinction between finger songs/nursery rhymes and Mother Goose.
- Skim this section for suggestions of books to read with children.

Mother Goose
- Why do Mother Goose rhymes appeal to children?
- Skim the sections on editions and collections of Mother Goose looking for books you want to read.
- Study the Guidelines for Evaluating Mother Goose Books.

Alphabet Books
- What are the various types of alphabet books?
- Skim the text and chart for suggestions of alphabet books you would like to read.

Counting Books
- Where do counting books fit into the scheme of the child’s learning?
- Skim the text and chart for suggestions of counting books to read.