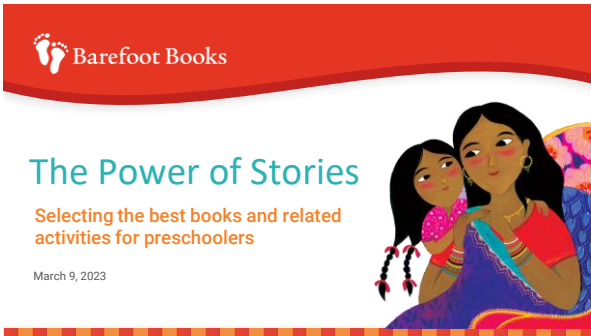
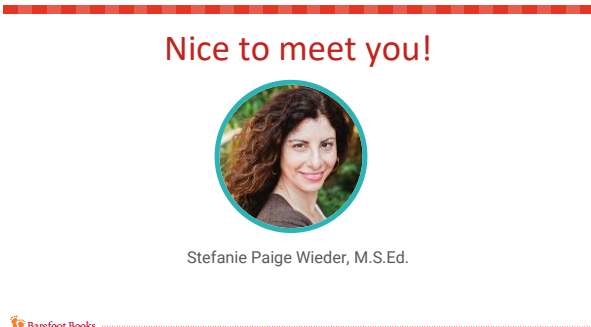




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Overview

- Why are early literacy skills important?
- Emergent literacy and brain development
- What IS reading, anyway?
- Essential early literacy activities and skills
- Which types of books best support preschoolers' literacy development?
- Reading techniques you can use and share with families



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Early literacy skills matter!

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"30 million word gap"

Early literacy skills matter!

6

Vocabulary development at age 3 predicts reading achievement by 3rd grade.

Source: Walker et al (1994). Prediction of School Outcomes Based on Early Language Production and Socioeconomic Factors. *Child Development*.



Early literacy skills matter!

7

When children struggle to read in 4th grade, they are four times more likely to drop out of high school

****Focus on 3rd grade test scores****

Source: The Annie E Casey Foundation (2014). *Early Warning: Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters*.



Early literacy skills matter!

8

90% of children's critical brain development occurs by age 5



What's going on in there?

9



10



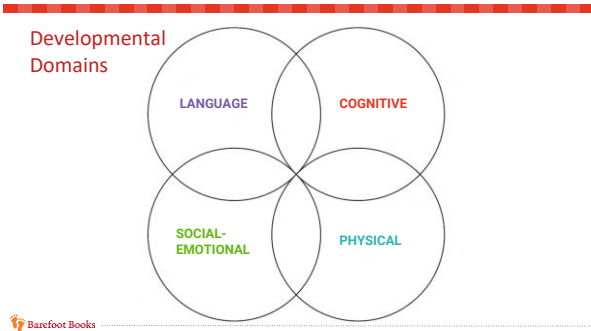
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What IS reading, anyway?



16

What IS reading, anyway?

The Accidental Invention of the Best Snack Food Ever


1:30    

In 1853, George Crum was a chef at the Moon's Lake House in Saratoga Springs, New York. One day, a customer ordered fried potatoes. Upon being served, the customer scoffed and sent them back several times claiming they were soggy. Chef Crum lost it. He devised a plan to get back at the picky customer. Little did he know, his retaliation would result in the worlds greatest snack food of all time. The potato chip. George Crum you are a vengeful genius.



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What skills did you use to read?



18

What skills did you use to read?

- Abstract thinking (being able to picture what the words represent)
- Connection with background knowledge
- Attention
- Tracking, left to right
- Letter and letter sound recognition
- Short-term memory
- Long-term memory
- Vocabulary (understanding what words mean)
- Decoding skills
- Sight word knowledge



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Reading is like baking a cake



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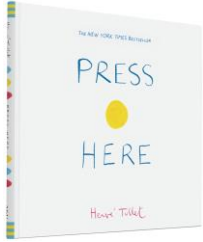
 A large, round cake with white frosting and colorful sprinkles is on a white plate. A slice has been cut out.

"The skills, knowledge, and attitudes that are developmental precursors to reading and writing"
- Whitehurst & Lonigan (1998)

Emergent literacy

21

Video Observation



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What did you notice?

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Stages of literacy development
for preschoolers

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Early preschool (age 3)

Kids usually begin to:

- explore books independently
- listen to longer books that are read aloud
- retell a familiar story
- sing the alphabet song with prompting and cues
- make symbols that resemble writing
- recognize the first letter in their name
- learn that writing is different from drawing a picture
- imitate the action of reading a book aloud



Source: Nemours Brightstart!
<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/milestones.html>



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Late preschool (age 4)

Kids usually begin to:

- recognize familiar signs and labels
- recognize words that rhyme
- name some of the letters of the alphabet
- recognize the letters in their names
- write their names
- name beginning letters or sounds of words
- match some letters to their sounds
- develop awareness of syllables
- use familiar letters to try writing words
- understand that print is read from left to right
- retell stories that have been read to them



Source: Nemours Brightstart!
<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/milestones.html>



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Kindergarten (age 5)

Kids usually begin to:

- produce words that rhyme
- match some spoken and written words
- write some letters, numbers, and words
- recognize some familiar words in print
- predict what will happen next in a story
- identify initial, final, and middle sounds in short words
- identify and manipulate increasingly smaller sounds in speech
- understand concrete definitions of some words
- read simple words in isolation and in context
- retell the main idea, identify details, and arrange story events in sequence



Source: Nemours Brightstart!
<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/milestones.html>



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So how do we teach reading in preschool?



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Handwriting lines for notes.



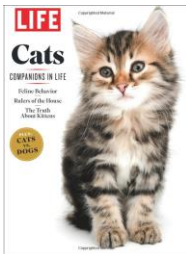
Anything that inspires you to speak, sing, and interact with the children in your care

Literacy experiences

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Handwriting lines for notes.

Literacy Experiences



Anything that exposes children to language



30

Handwriting lines for notes.

Every **CHILD**
Ready to **READ**
@ your library



- 1. Talking
- 2. Singing
- 3. Reading
- 4. Writing
- 5. Playing

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The six essential skills

- 1. Love of reading ("Print Motivation")
- 2. Understanding why to read and how to handle books ("Print Awareness")
- 3. Alphabet letter names and sounds ("Letter Knowledge")
- 4. Knowing a lot of different kinds of words ("Vocabulary")
- 5. Hearing and playing with the smaller sounds of words ("Phonological Awareness")
- 6. Telling stories, making predictions, describing events ("Narrative skills")

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What are the best kinds of books
for preschoolers?

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Read ✓
Sing ✓
Play ✓



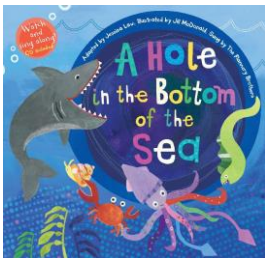
Singalong books

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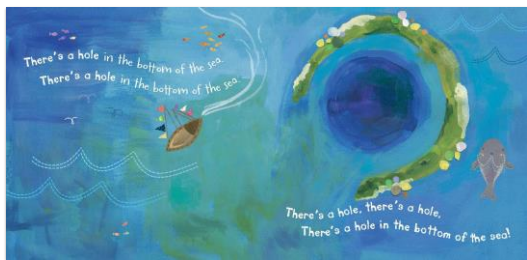
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Case Study: *A Hole in the Bottom of the Sea*



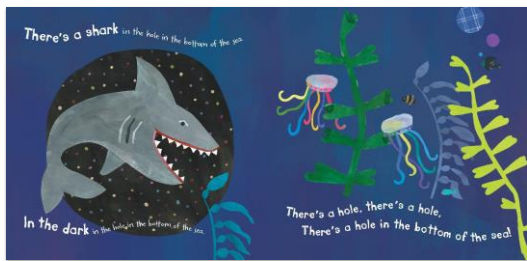
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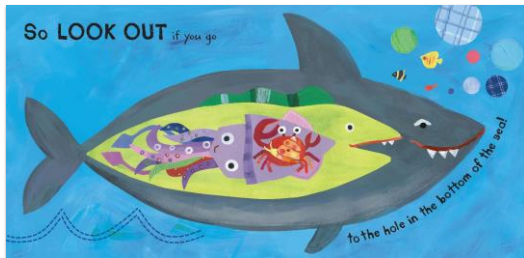
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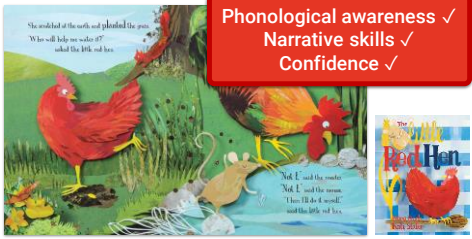
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What did you notice?

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Rhyming books, cumulative books,
books with repeated texts

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Essential skill #1:
Love of reading
("Print Motivation")

How?
This book is so much fun!



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Essential skill #2:
Understanding why to read and
how to handle books ("Print
Awareness")

How?
Shows we can use books to
get information.



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Essential skill #3:
Hearing a lot of different
kinds of words
("Vocabulary")

How?
Names of animals
Unusual words



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Essential skill #4:
Hearing and playing with
the smaller sounds of words
("Phonological Awareness")

How?
Rhyming



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Essential skill #5:
Telling stories, making
predictions, describing
events ("Narrative skills")

How?
Cumulative story encourages
children to make predictions



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Singalong books: *A Hole in the Bottom of the Sea*

Daily Activities	Essential skills
Talking	1. Print Motivation ✓
Singing ✓	2. Print Awareness ✓
Reading ✓	3. Letter Knowledge
Writing	4. Vocabulary ✓
Playing	5. Phonological Awareness ✓
	6. Narrative Skills ✓

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Bonus skills



- Gross motor skills
- Holds Attention
- Listening skills
- Following directions



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Extension activity ideas



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Positive sense of self ✓
Understanding of others ✓

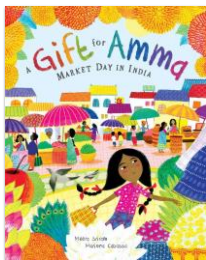
Diverse, inclusive & global books

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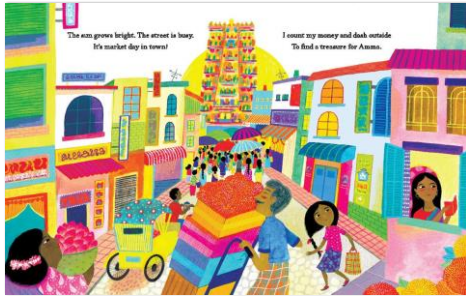
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Case study: A Gift for Amma



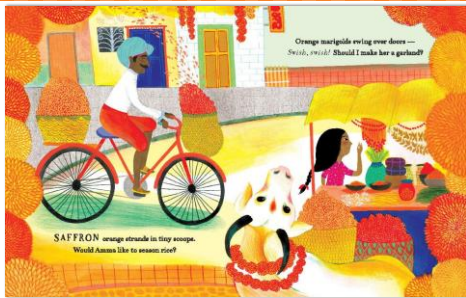
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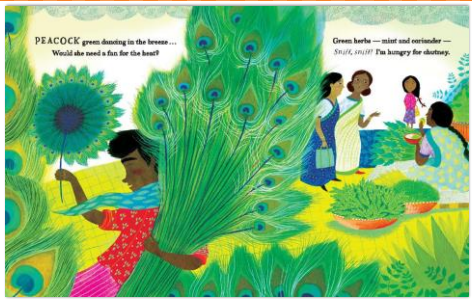
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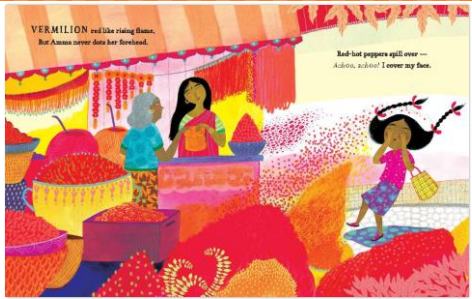
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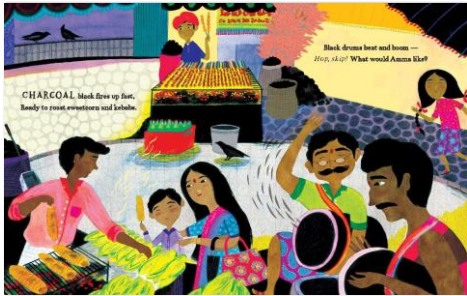
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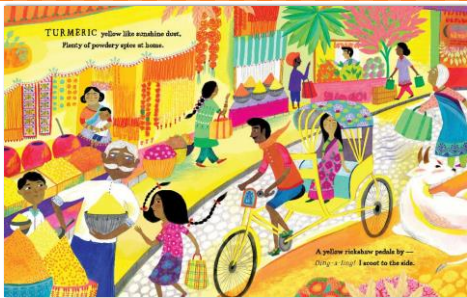
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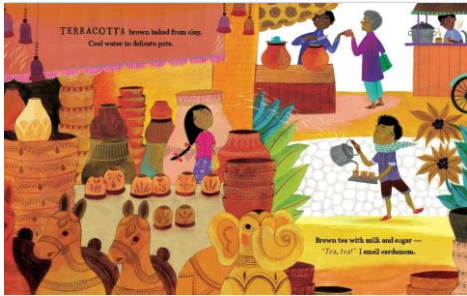
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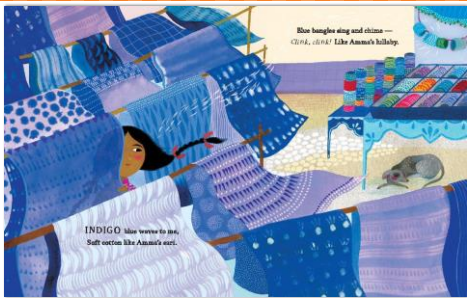
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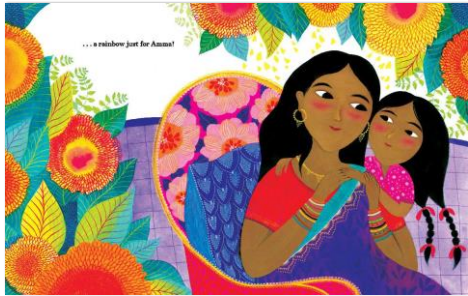
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What's at the Market?

The market in this story is based on the 'Vidhaya' and 'Majpara' markets in the western Himalayas, Himachal Pradesh, India.

<p>SAFFRON - a thin, orange, thread-like part of the crocus flowers used as a spice and dye for food.</p> 	<p>JASMINE - a sweet-smelling white flower that grows in Asia, used in the food and incense.</p> 	<p>CHARCOAL - a kind of half-burnt oak wood used to cook meat, meat, wood and other food stuffs.</p> 	<p>TURMERIC - a yellow plant root, similar to ginger, used as a medicine and cooking spice.</p> 
<p>LOTUS - a big pink flower that grows in lakes and ponds; the national flower of India.</p> 	<p>PEACOCK - a bird with long green tail feathers (only on the males) that grows up into a big shape for national bird of India.</p> 	<p>PIGEON - grey white or speckled bird found almost everywhere on Earth except the Arctic America and the North and South Pole.</p> 	<p>TERACOTTA - a brown, baked clay material, used to make bricks, pots, eggs, toys and artwork.</p> 
<p>VERMILION - bright red powder that people of the Hindu religious community wear in a dot on their foreheads.</p> 	<p>INDIGO - a dark blue dye; dye made by making blue plants that grow in India.</p> 		

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Markets Around the World

Markets have existed for thousands of years. The earliest markets, called *barter*, are thought to have started in the region of Mesopotamia (now Iraq).

<p>Markets of Yerevan (Armenia, Armenia) One of the oldest markets in the world, it is known for its colorful stalls and fresh produce. The market is a great place to see and buy fresh produce.</p> 	<p>Sukho Night Market (Thailand, Thailand) A night market where you can find fresh produce, street food, and other goods. The market is a great place to see and buy fresh produce.</p> 	<p>Sukho Night Market (Thailand, Thailand) A night market where you can find fresh produce, street food, and other goods. The market is a great place to see and buy fresh produce.</p> 	<p>Markets of Yerevan (Armenia, Armenia) One of the oldest markets in the world, it is known for its colorful stalls and fresh produce. The market is a great place to see and buy fresh produce.</p> 
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Did you know?

- The world's oldest market is the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, Turkey.
- The world's largest market is the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, Turkey.
- The world's largest fish and seafood market is the Tsukiji Fish Market in Tokyo, Japan.
- The world's largest flower market is the A' Flowers in Dubai, Spain.

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Diverse, inclusive & global books: *A Gift for Amma*

Daily Activities	Essential skills
Talking ✓ Singing ✓ Reading ✓ Writing Playing	1. Print Motivation ✓ 2. Print Awareness ✓ 3. Letter Knowledge 4. Vocabulary ✓ 5. Phonological Awareness 6. Narrative Skills

Extension activity ideas







Wordless books & story cards

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Case Study: Build-a-Story Cards: Magical Castle



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STORY STRUCTURE

Learn about story elements

- **Sort:** Each card has a red, yellow or blue back. Sort the cards into three piles.
- **Look:** Take a close look at the cards in each pile. Notice the types of pictures that are on the red, yellow and blue cards.

<p>The red cards have characters on them: people, animals and other creatures who do things in a story.</p>	<p>The yellow cards have settings on them: places where a story happens.</p>	<p>The blue cards have objects on them: things that characters can use or find in a story.</p>
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Character



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Object



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Setting





• **Choose Three:** Pick one **character**, one **setting** AND one **object** card. Now, create a story using these cards and any other cards you choose. You can put the cards in any order to create your story. For example:





Wordless books & story cards: *Build-a-Story Magical Castle*

Daily Activities	Essential skills
Talking ✓ Singing ✓ Reading ✓ Writing ✓ Playing ✓	1. Print Motivation ✓ 2. Print Awareness 3. Letter Knowledge 4. Vocabulary ✓ 5. Phonological Awareness 6. Narrative Skills ✓

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Letter Knowledge



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Curiosity ✓
Factual Knowledge ✓

Nonfiction Books

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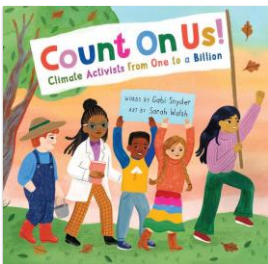


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Case Study: *Count on Us*



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Nonfiction book: *Count on Us*

Daily Activities	Essential skills
Talking ✓	1. Print Motivation ✓
Singing	2. Print Awareness ✓
Reading ✓	3. Letter Knowledge ✓
Writing	4. Vocabulary ✓
Playing	5. Phonological Awareness
	6. Narrative Skills ✓

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Extension activity ideas



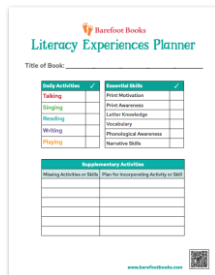
Source: joyfulearning.com

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Preschool Literacy Resources

- Barefoot Books
- Reading Rockets
- Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy
- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Nemours Reading Bright Start
- Make Way for Books
- Every Child Ready to Read



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The banner features an orange background with a white dashed border. On the left is a circular icon with a laptop and a globe. The text 'www.barefootbooks.com' is at the top, 'Find us on social: @barefootbooks' is in the center, and a QR code is on the right. The Barefoot Books logo is at the bottom left.
