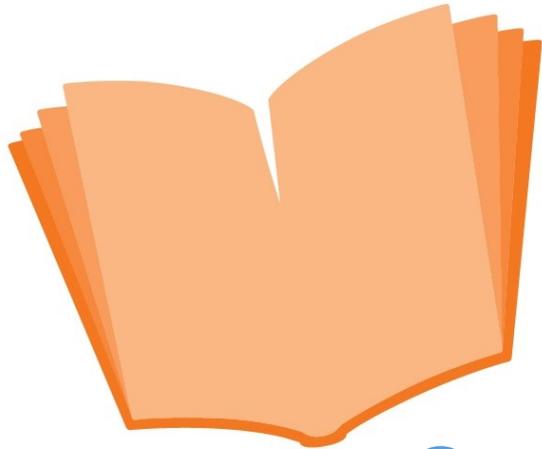


# 2021 Early Literacy Activities Calendar



**orange**  
**city** public library

# JANUARY 2021

## Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



### 1 WRITING

Draw the numbers 2021 and color them with your child. Talk about the new year.

### 2 PLAYING

Play 'Riddle Me.'  
*I'm white and cold and fun to play in. What am I? Yes! Snow!*  
Take turns offering riddles.

### 3 TALKING

Have a conversation about winter. Ask your child, "What is your favorite thing about winter?" Tell what your favorite thing is about winter.

### 4 SINGING

Sing "The Rhyming Word" song.  
*(Words are on the back. 🐶)*



### 5 COUNTING

Weigh your child and write it here \_\_\_\_\_. Save the calendar and measure again in June.

### 6 READING

Visit the library (or the library's website if the building is not open) and check out a book.

### 7 WRITING

With your child write (and talk about) important dates on a 2021 calendar.



### 8 PLAYING

Create a small obstacle course and give your child directions.  
*Go around the chair, go over the book, pick up the spoon, turn around, and come back.*

### 9 TALKING

Talk about colors. Ask your child what their favorite color is and share what your favorite color is. Talk about things that are those colors.

### 10 SINGING

Pick a song your child is familiar with and act it out while it is playing.

### 11 COUNTING

Measure your child's height and write it here \_\_\_\_\_. Save the calendar and measure again in June.

### 12 READING

Use your finger to follow along with the words as you read aloud to your child today.



### 13 WRITING

With your child write "Birthday" on each day in 2021 that is the birthday of a family member. Talk about what you are doing.

### 14 PLAYING

Play 'Follow the Leader.' Do things and ask your child to do the same.  
*Touch your head, Turn around, Sit down.*

### 15 TALKING

Talk about food.  
*Which food do you each think is the most delicious? What do you want to have for dinner?*

### 16 SINGING

Make up silly songs about everyday activities.  
*This is the way we make the bed, make the bed, make the bed. This is the way we brush our teeth, etc.*

### 17 COUNTING

Count snacks.  
*How many crackers are there?*



### 18 READING

Be a reading role model. Let your child catch you reading a book, a newspaper, or a magazine.

### 19 WRITING

Write a list of things to do today. Have your child check off each as it is completed.

### 20 PLAYING

Go on a scavenger hunt.  
*Look for things that begin with S. Shoe, sock, soap.*



### 21 TALKING

Take out a few ice cubes. Put them in separate small bowls. Help your child place them around your home, including outside. Talk about which melts first.

### 22 SINGING

Sing a favorite song in a loud voice and then a quiet voice.

### 23 COUNTING

Measure your feet day! Line up all the family's shoes and boots. Whose are biggest? The smallest?

### 24 READING

Read a book about winter.

### 25 WRITING

Draw the outline of your child's hand on a piece of paper. Write the date and have your child "sign" the drawing. Save it.

### 26 PLAYING

Let's dance! Play favorite songs that will inspire your child to do different things like jump and spin around.

### 27 TALKING

Say the nursery rhyme "Hey Diddle Diddle." *(Words are on the back. 🐘)*  
*Talk about how funny it is. The cow jumps over the moon? The little dog laughs? The dish runs away with the spoon?*

### 28 SINGING

Take turns singing parts of the ABC song. Sing it fast and sing it slow

### 29 COUNTING

Say the "Five Little Snowmen" rhyme. *(Words are on the back. 🐘)*

### 30 READING

Ask your child questions while you read to them today. What do you think will happen next? Where did the little dog go?

### 31 WRITING

Make an alphabet poster with large and colorful letters.

## You have been your child's teacher from the day he or she was born.

You know more about your child than anyone else, and you are in the best position to help your child get ready to read. Whether your child is four days old or four years old, it is not too early or too late to help him or her develop pre-reading skills. You can help your child learn language and other early literacy skills with simple and fun activities like those in this calendar.

### THE RHYMING WORD SONG

Do you know two rhyming words, rhyming words, rhyming words?

Do you know two rhyming words? They sound a lot alike.

**Cat** and **bat** are rhyming words, rhyming words, rhyming words

**Cat** and **bat** are rhyming words. They sound a lot alike.

CHANGE UP THE RHYMING WORDS TO CREATE NEW VERSES. FOR EXAMPLE:

**Play** and **day** are rhyming words, rhyming words, rhyming words . . .



### HEY DIDDLE DIDDLE

Hey Diddle Diddle

The Cat and the Fiddle

The Cow Jumped Over the Moon

The Little Dog Laughed

To See Such Sport

And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon



### FIVE LITTLE SNOWMEN

Five little snowmen standing in a row,

*(Hold up five fingers)*

Each had a hat and a big red bow.

*(Put hands on head and then neck)*

Out came the sun and stayed all day,

*(Circle arms overhead)*

And one little snowman melted away.

*(Slump down)*

REPEAT WITH 4, 3, 2, 1, UNTIL NO SNOWMEN ARE LEFT.



# Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

## FOR READERS AGES 0-3

### Besos for Baby

by Jen Arena

(Text is in English and Spanish)

### "More, More, More," Said the Baby

by Vera B. Williams

## FOR READERS AGES 3+

### Arctic Animals

by Jill McDonald

### A Big Bed for Little Snow

by Grace Lin



# FEBRUARY 2021

## Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY



**1 WRITING**  
Use a red crayon to keep a list of all the red things you see today. Red car. Red truck. Red door. Write it down with the red crayon!

MONDAY

**2 PLAYING**  
Play the yes-no game.  
*"Is the sky blue?" "Is it morning?"  
"Is our dog's name Spot?"*

WEDNESDAY

**3 TALKING**  
Ask your child questions that have more than a yes or no answer. What is something fun we did today? What is something fun we can do tomorrow?

THURSDAY

**4 SINGING**  
Clap along to a favorite song. Emphasize the slow parts and the fast parts.



FRIDAY

**5 COUNTING**  
Look at a calendar together. Count the number of days until Valentine's Day. Draw a heart around February 14

SATURDAY

**6 READING**  
Pick a book to read together. Stop reading before the end and ask your child, "What do you think will happen?"

**7 WRITING**  
Let your child scribble and draw, encourage them to "sign" their name on their drawing.

**8 PLAYING**  
Go on a scavenger hunt.  
*Look for things that start with the "f" sound, like fruit, feet, face, fork.*

**9 TALKING**  
After reading together, talk about interesting words in the book.



**10 SINGING**  
Recite "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" (*Words are on the back.* ➡)

**11 COUNTING**  
Count your steps today. From the bedroom to the kitchen. From the front door to the corner. All the way back home.

**12 READING**  
Set up a reading routine: read after naps and before bedtime.



**13 WRITING**  
Letters are everywhere. Today look for the letter that your child's first name begins with and show them when you find it. Ask your child to also look.

**14 PLAYING**  
Happy Valentine's Day! Sing "The More We Get Together." (*Words are on the back.* ➡)



**15 TALKING**  
Talk about your family's plans for the day. What is your child excited to do or see?

**16 SINGING**  
Sing "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" together. (*Words are on the back.* ➡)

**17 COUNTING**  
Recite the rhyme "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe." (*Words are on the back.* ➡)

**18 READING**  
Look at the covers of books before reading them. Talk about what the books might be about.

**19 WRITING**  
Trace shapes and letters in a shallow pan of flour, salt, or baking soda.



**20 PLAYING**  
Play store. Set up a little store with items in your house and take turns being the shopper and the check-out clerk.

**21 TALKING**  
Introduce a new word to describe how you feel. Say "I feel joyful" rather than "I'm happy."

**22 SINGING**  
Sing a favorite song together. Change the words to make it silly or to incorporate your child's name.

**23 COUNTING**  
Pick a number of the day. Call it out wherever you see it!



**24 READING**  
Point out signs everywhere today. Explain what they say and how they help.

**25 WRITING**  
Make a chart of family preferences. List family member names and their favorite colors, favorite flavor ice cream, favorite fruit, etc.

**26 PLAYING**  
Use masking tape to make lines or shapes on the floor. Walk along the tape like a pretend balance beam.

**27 TALKING**  
Talk about concepts like "on" and "off" when you put on and take off hats and jackets.

**28 SINGING**  
Make music with things you have in the house—pots, pans, spoons, and sing and dance around to the music you make.



## How we read to children is as important as how often we read to them.

No matter what your child's age, reading together with your child—or shared reading—is the single most important activity that you can do to help your child get ready to read. Engage your child in back and forth conversation about the books you read. Children learn more words when they have the opportunity to respond to questions. If English is not your first language, speak to your child in the language you know best. This allows you to explain things to your child more fluently.

### TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR

Twinkle, twinkle, little star  
How I wonder what you are  
Up above the world so high  
Like a diamond in the sky  
Twinkle, twinkle little star  
How I wonder what you are

### THE ITSY BITSY SPIDER

The itsy bitsy spider went up the water spout.  
*(Move fingers up toward sky)*  
Down came the rain and washed the spider out.  
*(Bring fingers down and back)*  
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain  
*(Move arms up over head)*  
And the itsy bitsy spider climbed up the spout again.  
*(Move fingers up toward sky)*

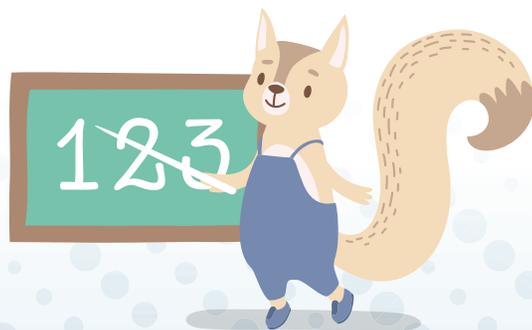
REPEAT WITH "GREAT BIG SPIDER" USING A GRUFF, DEEP VOICE.

### THE MORE WE GET TOGETHER

The more we get together  
Together, together  
The more we get together  
The happier we'll be  
'Cause your friends are my friends  
And my friends are your friends  
The more we get together  
The happier we'll be

### ONE, TWO, BUCKLE MY SHOE

One, two; buckle my shoe.  
Three, four; shut the door.  
Five, six; pick up sticks.  
Seven, eight; don't be late  
Nine, ten; do it over again!



# Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

## FOR READERS AGES 0-3

### Whose Toes Are Those?

by Jabari Asim

### Moo, Baa, La La

La! by Sandra Boynton

## FOR READERS AGES 3+

### Mixed—A Colorful Story

by Arree Chung

### Pinky Got Out!

By Michael Portis



## Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY



MONDAY

### 1 WRITING

Using masking tape, write your child's name in large letters on the floor. Trace each letter by walking on it or pushing a toy car or train around the letter.

TUESDAY

### 2 PLAYING

Place a pillow on the floor. Sit on it and pretend you are in an airplane in the sky. What do you see? Clouds, birds, buildings way below?

WEDNESDAY

### 3 TALKING

Talk about words that begin with "m," like March, Mom, Milk



THURSDAY

### 4 SINGING

Sing about what you are doing.

*This is how we brush our teeth, this is how we eat breakfast, etc.*

FRIDAY

### 5 COUNTING

Have your child help measure ingredients for a recipe by measuring and counting the number of cups or spoonfuls.

SATURDAY

### 6 READING

As you read, point out a picture on the page and expand on it.

*That's a tree. Trees have branches and leaves. Birds sometimes build nests in them.*

### 7 WRITING

Pick a letter of the alphabet and practice tracing it.



### 8 PLAYING

Play "I Spy" with rhyming words.

*"I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with fly. What is it? Yes, the sky!"*



### 9 TALKING

Talk about what you are making for dinner. Name the different foods you will use.

### 10 SINGING

Sing "Five Little Froggies." *(Words are on the back. ➡)*

### 11 COUNTING

Count blocks as your child stacks them. How many blocks before it topples over?

### 12 READING

Look at wordless picture books together. Ask your child to help tell the story.



### 13 WRITING

Make shapes in a tray of rice. Triangle, square, circle. Practice tracing your child's name.

### 14 PLAYING

Line up chairs and pretend to drive a city bus. Take turns driving and being the passenger. Call out the stops!

### 15 TALKING

Use a block to pretend to talk on the phone. Hand the block to your child and say, "They want to talk to you."

### 16 SINGING

Sing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" after you read a book about farm animals. *(Words are on the back. ➡)*

### 17 COUNTING

Use masking tape to measure yourself and your child on a wall. Compare the sizes. Who is taller? Who is shorter?

### 18 READING

Help your child notice words as you go through your everyday routine.

*Point out street signs, words on food cartons, signs on shops, billboards, and more.*

### 19 WRITING

Invite your child to write an email or text message to a friend or relative.

*Ask him or her to tell you what to say. Show how you pick out the letters on the keyboard.*

### 20 PLAYING

Pretend to be birds. Flap your wings and whistle, sing, and tweet. Talk about your favorite birds.

### 21 TALKING

Expand on comments your child makes.

*"That is an airplane." / "Where do you think it is going?" / "The tree is green." / "What else is green?"*

### 22 SINGING

Have a music parade. Play pretend instruments while you march around the house.



### 23 COUNTING

Collect a variety of pebbles and rocks. Write numerals on each. Help your child put them in order.

### 24 READING

Share what you are reading with your child. Read aloud a portion of a magazine, book, or newspaper that you are reading.

### 25 WRITING

Write a shopping list together. Take it to the store as you shop and show how the words on the list relate to what you purchase.

### 26 PLAYING

Play a guessing game.

*We are going to a place that begins with P, where do you think we are going? Yes, the Park!*

### 27 TALKING

Point out the shapes of different objects, talk about how they are alike and different.

### 28 SINGING

Sing and dance "The Hokey-Pokey." *(Words and instructions are on the back. ➡)*

### 29 COUNTING

Create a to-do list for the day. Have your child check off each activity as it is completed.



### 30 READING

Show your child a selection of books. Ask which they would prefer to read first.

### 31 WRITING

Label your child's belongings with their name. Let them also label a few items (like the crayon box or a pad of drawing paper).



## Playing to learn new words.

Play is one of the best ways for children to learn language and literacy skills. Play helps children feel a sense of accomplishment and self-confidence. This motivates them to try new experiences and not to give up when something seems difficult. Also, it's fun!

### FIVE LITTLE FROGGIES

Five little froggies sat on a shore.  
*(Crouch like a frog)*

One went for a swim, then there were four.  
*(Pretend to leap and swim off)*

Four little froggies  
*(Crouch like a frog)*

Looked out to sea.  
*(Put your hand at brow and look out to sea)*

One went swimming, and then there were three.  
*(Pretend to leap and swim off)*

Three little froggies said, "What can we do?"

One jumped in the water, then there were two.  
*(Pretend to leap and swim off)*

Two little froggies sat in the sun.  
*(Crouch like a frog)*

One swam off, and then there was one.  
*(Pretend to leap and swim off)*

One little froggie said "This is no fun!"

He dived in the water, and then there were none!



### OLD MACDONALD HAD A FARM

Old MacDonald had a farm  
E-I-E-I-O

And on that farm he had a [animal name]  
E-I-E-I-O

With a [animal noise twice] here and a  
[animal noise twice] there

Here a [animal noise], there a [animal noise],  
everywhere a [animal noise twice]

Old MacDonald had a farm  
E-I-E-I-O

### THE HOKEY POKEY

You put your right foot in

You take your right foot out.

You put your right foot in

And you shake it all about.

You do the hokey pokey

And you turn yourself around.

That's what it's all about.

REPEAT WITH "LEFT FOOT," "RIGHT HAND," "LEFT HAND,"  
AND "WHOLE SELF"!

# Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

## FOR READERS AGES 0-3

### Higher, Higher

by Leslie Patricelli

### Making Faces—A First Book of Emotions

by Abrams Appleseed

## FOR READERS AGES 3+

### Mae Among the Stars

by Roda Ahmed

### Hooray for Birds

by Lucy Cousins



# APRIL 2021

## Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



### 4 SINGING

Sing a song in a high voice; sing it in a low voice. Sing it slow; sing it fast.

### 5 COUNTING

Find two items that are similar but different sizes. Talk about big and little.

### 6 READING

Visit the library (in-person or online) and check out books about Spring.



### 7 WRITING

Help your child experiment with writing using pencils, crayons, markers, and chalk on different types of paper and cardboard.

### 1 WRITING

Write your child a small note. Leave it where they will find it. Read it to them with excitement and expression.

### 2 PLAYING

Play a questioning game.  
*Ask your child, "Where are your toes?"; "Where is your nose?"; "Where are your ears?"*

### 3 TALKING

Talk about Spring and how it is one of the four seasons.  
*What will happen in Spring?  
What comes after Spring?*

### 11 COUNTING

Cut a piece of toast in half. Say, "Now we have two pieces the same size."

### 12 READING

Teach letter sounds by playing "I Spy."  
*"I spy with my little eye something that begins with S. Yes! A shoe!"*

### 13 WRITING

Cut a letter of the alphabet out of cardboard. Put the letter under a piece of paper. Have your child color over the letter and watch the letter beneath appear.

### 14 PLAYING

Play the letter day game. Find things all day that start with the first letter of your child's first name.



### 15 TALKING

Use new describing words today.  
*Say "enormous" instead of "big."  
"Wonderful" instead of "great."*

### 16 SINGING

Sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" during bath time.



### 17 COUNTING

Count to 5 as you spin in a circle five times. Count 5 hops. Count five small steps. Count five big steps.

### 18 READING

Get caught reading a book. Show your child reading is important to you too.

### 19 WRITING

Make a dot painting with cotton swabs to help develop fine motor skills.



### 20 PLAYING

Cut out large shapes—a square, a rectangle, a triangle, a circle. Place them on the floor. Take turns telling which shapes to step on.

### 21 TALKING

Choose a word of the day. Write the word down together. Use the word several times during the course of the day.

### 22 SINGING

Make up a song about something that is familiar or interesting to your child.

### 23 COUNTING

Place several objects on a table. Ask which is largest, which is heaviest, which is smallest.

### 24 READING

Write a few letters down on different pieces of paper. Place them around the room. Help your child find them.

### 25 WRITING

Create a writing box together. Include paper and crayons. Decorate the outside and leave it within easy reach of your child.

### 26 PLAYING

Make a tent with sheets and furniture. Pretend you are camping. What do you see? What do you hear?

### 27 TALKING

Say a favorite rhyme but leave off the last word. Have your child finish the sentence



### 28 SINGING

Sing "I Hear Thunder."  
*(Words are on the back. 🐵)*

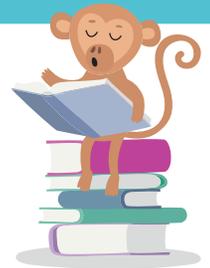
### 29 COUNTING

Sort blocks by color. Count how many there are of each color.



### 30 READING

Ask interactive questions while reading together. Where is the dog? Where is the cat?



## Talking is one of the best ways for children to learn new words.

Speak to your child often during the day and try to use many different words to express your ideas. Children love to imitate, and they will try to imitate your speech. Chances to chat include while you are getting dressed in the morning, eating breakfast, riding in the car, walking from the car to a store, playing together, doing chores, taking a bath, going to bed, and while saying goodnight. Ask lots of open-ended questions, those that require more than a yes or no answer.



### RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY

Rain, Rain,  
Go away;  
Come again,  
Another day;  
Little [child's name] wants to play

### I HEAR THUNDER

*Sing to the tune "Frère Jacques"*

I hear thunder, I hear thunder.

*(Pound hands gently on floor or lap)*

Listen, don't you? Listen, don't you?

*(Cup hand to ear)*

Pitter, patter raindrops; pitter, patter raindrops;

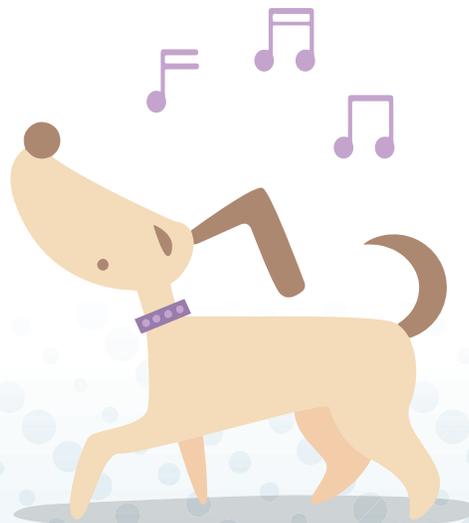
*(Wiggle fingers in falling motion in front of face)*

I'm wet through,

*(Shake body)*

So are you!

*(Tickle your child)*



# Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

## FOR READERS AGES 0-3

### Weather

*by Jill McDonald*

### Dream Big, Little One

*by Vashti Harrison*

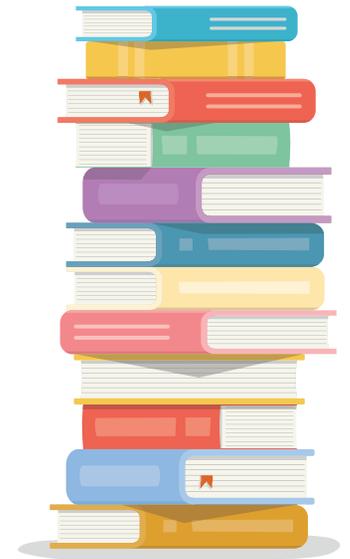
## FOR READERS AGES 3+

### Cat & Mouse

*by Britta Teckentrup*

### Bear Came Along

*by Richard T. Morris*



## Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



**1 WRITING**

Practice drawing shapes and letters in a tray of rice.

**2 PLAYING**

Go on an outside scavenger hunt. Bring a list and check off the things you see.

**3 TALKING**

Say as many words as you can that rhyme with "May."



**4 SINGING**

Use a homemade shaker and shake it to the beat of songs.

**5 COUNTING**

Go for a walk. Take two big steps. Take three large steps. Count how many steps from your door to the sidewalk.

**6 READING**

Ask your child to "read" to you by telling you their own story based on pictures in a book.

**7 WRITING**

Make a Mother's Day card and have your child sign their name.



**8 PLAYING**

Play "Riddle Me."

*I'm big, yellow, and hot. What am I? Yes! I am the sun!*

**9 TALKING**

Talk about feelings you felt today. What made you laugh today?

**10 SINGING**

Sing "The Farmer Plants the Seeds." (Words are on the back. ➡)

**11 COUNTING**

Sing the "The Ants Go Marching." (Words are on the back. ➡)



**12 READING**

Draw out a story on 4-5 small pieces of paper. Help your child put the papers in proper sequence to tell the story.

**13 WRITING**

Playing with play dough strengthens muscles needed for writing. Roll dough into balls, press fingers into the dough, and make shapes.

**14 PLAYING**

Play a rhyming game, where you choose a word and then come up with as many rhyming words as you can.

*Dog, frog, hog, log.*

**15 TALKING**

Look for signs of spring. Go for a walk and talk about what you see.

*Point out new grass, birds, first flowers, leaf buds.*

**16 SINGING**

Sing a favorite song. Sing it fast, sing it slow. Sing it loud. Whisper it.

**17 COUNTING**

Ask questions about what is heavier.

*Does an orange or a grape weigh more? Is Mom's jacket or your jacket heavier?*

**18 READING**

Look into your library's summer reading program.



**19 WRITING**

Draw a large alphabet. Have your child practice finger tracing while you say the letters out loud.

**20 PLAYING**

Go on an outside scavenger hunt. Look for shapes. How many different shapes can you find?



**21 TALKING**

Today is Friday. Talk about the days of the week. What will your family do this weekend?

**22 SINGING**

Play children's songs. Sing and dance together.



**23 COUNTING**

Draw numbers on the sidewalk with chalk.

**24 READING**

Have your child tell you a story about pictures they draw.

**25 WRITING**

Help your child begin to recognize words for a few common objects by labeling them.

*Shoe. Table. Door.*

**26 PLAYING**

Set up an obstacle course and give your child directions. Run to the park bench. Jump over the stick. Touch the ground. Come back to me.

**27 TALKING**

When reading a book today stop before you get to the end and ask your child what they think will happen next.

**28 SINGING**

*You: ABCDEFG  
Child: HIJKLMNOP*

Continue taking turns to finish the alphabet.

**29 COUNTING**

Count the number of eggs in a carton. Explain that 12 items together is also called a dozen.

**30 READING**

Come up with rhyming words throughout the day.

**31 WRITING**

Scribble together on sheets of scrap paper.

## Good readers have a large vocabulary.

Knowing lots of words helps children better understand what they read. You can help your children learn lots of words by:

- Having plenty of conversations. Take turns talking. It is important for you to ask questions and listen to what your children say in response.
- Read together! A lot!
- Make connections. Connect what you are reading in books to their lives. "Yes, Grandma has a black cat, too."
- Repetition. Children often love to read the same book over and over. This is a good thing as repeated readings help build vocabulary.



### ANTS GO MARCHING

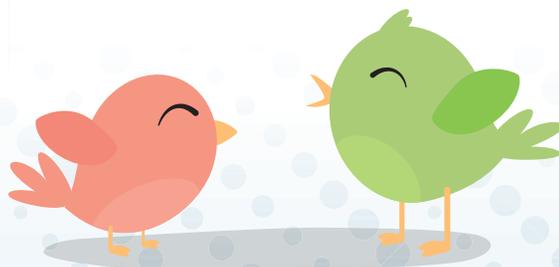
The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah.  
The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah.  
The ants go marching one by one,  
The little one stops to eat a plum.  
And they all go marching down,  
To the ground, to get out, of the rain.  
BOOM BOOM BOOM

Two by two. Tie its shoe.  
Three by three. Climb a tree.  
Four by four. Shut the door.  
Five by five. Take a dive.  
Six by six. Pick up sticks.  
Seven by seven. Tie a ribbon.  
Eight by Eight. Close the gate.  
Nine by Nine. Check the time.  
Ten by Ten. Say THE END.

### THE FARMER PLANTS THE SEEDS

*Sing to the tune "The Farmer in the Dell"*

The Farmer plants the seeds,  
The Farmer plants the seeds, *(Pretend to plant seeds)*  
Hi, ho, the dairy-o,  
The farmer plants the seeds.  
The sun comes out to shine... *(Make large circle with arms)*  
The rain begins to fall...  
*(Hands flutter up and down)*  
The seeds begin to grow... *(Stand up tall)*  
The farmer picks the crops... *(Pretend to pick crops)*  
We all sit down to eat...  
*(Pretend to eat)*



# Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

## FOR READERS AGES 0-3

### We Sang You Home

*by Richard Van Camp*

### Oh No, George!

*by Chris Haughton*

## FOR READERS AGES 3+

### Birdsong

*by Julie Flett*

### The Book Hog

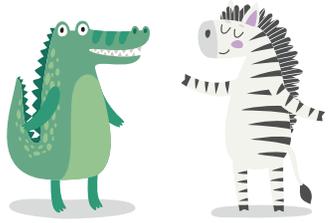
*by Greg Pizzoli*



# JUNE 2021

## Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY



MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

### 1 WRITING

Draw outside with sidewalk chalk. Draw letters and shapes.

### 2 PLAYING

Make bubbles outside. Talk about the bubbles. What shape are they? Which way will they go? Can you catch one?

### 3 TALKING

Pick out a family snapshot or a random picture. Ask your child to tell you about the picture. Expand on what your child says to create a story.

### 4 SINGING

Recite "Little Miss Muffet." (Words are on the back. ➡)



### 5 COUNTING

Measure your child's height and mark it here \_\_\_\_\_. Compare to January's measurement.

### 6 READING

Make a paper bag puppet. Have the puppet read a book.

### 7 WRITING

Draw the outline of your child's hand. Write the date and have your child "sign" the drawing.

### 8 PLAYING

Play the letter day game. Look for words that begin with "S" like Summer.



### 9 TALKING

Talk about Summer. What are your favorite things to do in the Summer? How are Summer and Winter different?

### 10 SINGING

Sing a favorite song. Then sing it again but make up new words.

### 11 COUNTING

Weigh your child and write it here \_\_\_\_\_. How does it compare to January?

### 12 READING

Read a book about flowers and plants.



### 13 WRITING

In the morning write today's to-do list. Check things off as you do them.

### 14 PLAYING

Play Leap Frog with stuffed animals. Explain that the game is called Leap Frog because players resemble frogs leaping through the air.

### 15 TALKING

Talk about colors. What is your favorite color and why? Find your favorite color as many times as you can today.

### 16 SINGING

Recite the nursery rhyme "Diddle Diddle Dumpling." (Words are on the back. ➡)

### 17 COUNTING

Go for a walk. Pick something and count how many you see. (Cars, trees, flowers, clouds, birds, squirrels, etc.).

### 18 READING

Go to the library and pick out a book about Summer.

### 19 WRITING

Make a word jar. Each day write a new word on a slip of paper and add it to the jar. (Use any container—doesn't have to be a jar.)

### 20 PLAYING

Sit on cushions on the floor and pretend to be in a boat. Sing "Row, Row, Your Boat." (Words are on the back. ➡)

### 21 TALKING

Ask W questions after reading a book. (Who, What, Where, When, Why).  
*Who is your favorite animal on this page? What happened here?*

### 22 SINGING

Make up a song using words that rhyme with dog.

### 23 COUNTING

Count the number of kisses you give your child today.



### 24 READING

Look at a magazine together. Explain some of the pictures or illustrations.

### 25 WRITING

Make a book of your child's favorite words. Talk about the words and draw pictures.

### 26 PLAYING

Play Red Light Green Light (Instructions are on the back. ➡)

### 27 TALKING

Talk about food. What do you like to eat?



### 28 SINGING

Have a parade. Put on music and march around. Pretend to play instruments.

### 29 COUNTING

Sort items from your grocery bag.  
*These things go in the pantry. These go in the refrigerator? How many go in the freezer?*

### 30 READING

While reading a familiar book today, pause here and there to allow your child to say some of the words.



## One way children learn vocabulary is from listening to stories.

They listen to understand what is being said, which helps them learn new words. Stories aren't just found in books. You can tell stories about your day, your memories from growing up, or something about your child's life. You can also use wordless picture books and make up a story together. With wordless books, you can develop imagination along with language and vocabulary skills. Make it fun! Having fun with words helps your child become more aware of words and eager to learn more.

### LITTLE MISS MUFFET

Little Miss Muffet  
Sat on a tuffet,  
Eating her curds and whey  
Along came a spider  
And sat down beside her  
And frightened Miss Muffet away

### ROW YOUR BOAT

Row, Row, Row, Your Boat  
Gently Down the Stream  
Merrily, Merrily, Merrily, Merrily  
Life is But a Dream

### DIDDLE DIDDLE DUMPLING

Diddle, diddle, dumpling, my son John,  
Went to bed with his trousers on;  
One shoe off, and one shoe on,  
Diddle, diddle, dumpling my son John.

### RED LIGHT GREEN LIGHT

One person is the traffic light. When they say green light everyone can move toward the finish line. When they say red light everyone must immediately stop. Continues until everyone reaches the finish line.



# Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

## FOR READERS AGES 0-3

### Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

By Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle

### Te Amo, Bebé / Love You Baby

by Stephan Lomp  
(Text is in English and Spanish)

## FOR READERS AGES 3+

### Round Is a Mooncake

by Roseanne Thong

### Hello Lighthouse

by Sophie Blacktail



# JULY 2021

## Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



### 4 SINGING

Sing a song with movement, like "BINGO." (Words are on the back. ➡)

### 5 COUNTING

Have your child help cook with a recipe.  
*"We will need six eggs. One cup of flour," etc.*

### 6 READING

Look at the cover of a book before reading it. Point out the book's title, and say "The name of this book is..."

### 7 WRITING

Write a message and tuck it in your child's shoe. Read it together when your child finds it.

### 1 WRITING

Plan a picnic. Write a list of things you will need to bring. Check off the list as you locate the items.

### 2 PLAYING

Play "Big Steps, Little Steps" outside. Call out which you and your child should use. Big Steps (take big steps); Little Steps (take tiny tiptoe steps)

### 3 TALKING

Talk about today's weather. What should you wear?



### 11 COUNTING

Compare amounts.  
*"You have more pieces of apple than I do."*

### 12 READING

Vary your voice as you read. Use different expressions to help your child learn about feelings.

### 13 WRITING

Write a message outside with chalk.



### 14 PLAYING

Play the letter day game. Look for things that begin with the first letter of your child's name.

### 15 TALKING

Take a walk outside. Talk about all you see. Point out and name things.

### 16 SINGING

Sing or recite "Mary Had a Little Lamb." (Words are on the back. ➡)

### 17 COUNTING

Use a piece of string to measure things. What is longer? What is shorter?

### 18 READING

After reading a book talk about your favorite part.



### 19 WRITING

Help your child draw a picture of a summer activity. Have your child "sign" the picture.

### 20 PLAYING

Use water to "paint" on the sidewalk. Watch it evaporate.



### 21 TALKING

At bedtime talk about where animals sleep at night.

### 22 SINGING

Make a shaker by putting dried pasta or beans in an empty container. Shake it while you march and sing.

### 23 COUNTING

Count how many birds you see today.



### 24 READING

Print is everywhere. Point out words wherever you go today.

### 25 WRITING

Ask your child to dictate a letter to a special person. Show how to address an envelope and add a stamp. Then go to mail the letter together.

### 26 PLAYING

Play "Riddle Me."  
*"I'm smaller than your hand, I'm purple, and I'm in the kitchen. What am I? Yes! A grape."*

### 27 TALKING

Talk about things you do in the morning, things you do in the afternoon, and things you do at night.

### 28 SINGING

Play "Echo Me." Clap, stomp, or beat a drum, and have your child repeat the noise.



### 29 COUNTING

Create a grocery list with your child. Look at what you have and what you need to purchase.

### 30 READING

Use your finger to follow along with the words.

### 31 PLAYING

Play "I Spy" outside.  
*"I spy something that has three wheels and is pink. Yes! Your bike."*

## You are your child's first teacher, and your home is where your child begins to learn.

Make your home a great place to learn. It doesn't take money to create special places where you and your child can talk, sing, read, write, play, and count. Here are a few ideas.

### PLACES TO READ

Create a special space for your children to look at books. Have a comfortable chair or pillows and a small shelf or basket for favorite books. Make sure there's room for you and your child to sit together and that your child can reach books without needing help.

### PLACES TO WRITE

Make it easy for your child to write throughout the day. Set up a space where your child can go on his or her own and use writing materials. Provide pencils, crayons, or markers of different sizes so your child can write with what is most comfortable. Use unlined paper.

### PLACES TO PLAY

Play requires a little space, simple props, and some imagination and encouragement. You don't need special toys or expensive electronics. Provide props like large boxes, old clothes or costumes for dress up, empty food containers, and empty paper towel rolls. Play comes naturally to young children and is one of the primary ways they learn. Provide plenty of opportunities for your child to play.

### B-I-N-G-O

There was a farmer who had a dog  
and Bingo was his name-oh.

B-I-N-G-O,

B-I-N-G-O

B-I-N-G-O

and Bingo was his name-oh.

There was a farmer who had a dog  
and Bingo was his name-oh.

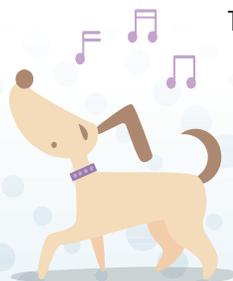
(clap)-I-N-G-O,

(clap)-I-N-G-O

(clap)-I-N-G-O

and Bingo was his name-oh.

CONTINUE UNTIL ALL THE LETTERS IN  
BINGO'S NAME ARE REPLACED WITH CLAPS.



### MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB

Mary had a little lamb,  
Its fleece was white as snow,  
And everywhere that Mary went  
The lamb was sure to go;  
It followed her to school one  
Which was against the rule,  
It made the children laugh and play  
To see a lamb in school.

# Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

## FOR READERS AGES 0-3

### Peekaboo Morning

by Rachel Isadora

### Little Chickies / Los Pollitos

by Susie Jaramillo

(Text is in English and Spanish)

## FOR READERS AGES 3+

### Waiting

by Kevin Henkes

### They All Saw a Cat

by Brendan Wenzel



# AUGUST 2021

## Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 WRITING</b> Sit outside and write a list of seven things you see. 	<b>2 PLAYING</b> Paint on the sidewalk with water. Watch it evaporate.	<b>3 TALKING</b> Make this "same and different" day. "How are our socks the same and different? They go on our feet and they are different colors."	<b>4 SINGING</b> Make music with things you have in the house, like pots, pans, spoons, boxes, and cups.	<b>5 COUNTING</b> Talk about time. How long does it take to get to Grandma's house? How long does it take to get to the park?	<b>6 READING</b> Read a nonfiction book about birds. Talk about what you've learned. Say the rhyme "If I Were a Bird." (Words are on the back. ➔)	<b>7 WRITING</b> Label the things in your child's room. Bed, dresser, table, book, closet. Point to the words and discuss as you put things away.
<b>8 PLAYING</b> Play with blocks. What can you make? Form the blocks into a letter shape. 	<b>9 TALKING</b> Take an alphabet walk outside. Talk about things that begin with different letter sounds.	<b>10 SINGING</b> Sing a bedtime story. Encourage your child to sing with you.	<b>11 COUNTING</b> Put five stuffed animals in order from smallest to largest. 	<b>12 READING</b> Go to the library and check out a new book.	<b>13 WRITING</b> Draw a picture for a grandparent or other very important person.	<b>14 PLAYING</b> Play "What Fits?" <i>"Will your hat fit under your bed? Will the refrigerator fit in your pocket?"</i>
<b>15 TALKING</b> It's Library Card Month. Talk about what you can do at the library.	<b>16 SINGING</b> Pick a new kind of music you haven't listened to before. Listen together.	<b>17 COUNTING</b> Set the table for a meal. How many plates will you need? How many utensils? Napkins?	<b>18 READING</b> Go to the library for a new book you haven't read before. The librarian can help you find one.	<b>19 WRITING</b> Use play dough to shape your child's first name.	<b>20 PLAYING</b> Play the yes-no game about time. Is it time for breakfast? Is it time to read? Is it time for kisses?	<b>21 TALKING</b> Before going to bed talk about things you did this morning, this afternoon, and tonight. 
<b>22 SINGING</b> Sing a "good morning" song to greet your child in the morning. 	<b>23 COUNTING</b> Line-up all of the family's shoes. Count how many there are. Put them in size order from smallest to largest.	<b>24 READING</b> Point out signs everywhere you go today. Explain what they say and how they help.	<b>25 WRITING</b> Draw shapes on the sidewalk. Draw a triangle, a square, a circle, and a rectangle. Talk about how they are different.	<b>26 PLAYING</b> Go on a letter hunt today. Pick a letter and call it out every time you see it. Keep track of how many you see.	<b>27 TALKING</b> Offer choices today. <i>Do you want this book or that one? Do you want water or milk? Would you like a banana or strawberries?</i>	<b>28 SINGING</b> Sing "The Wheels on the Bus." (Words are on the back. ➔)
<b>29 COUNTING</b> Trace around your hand and around your child's hand. Talk about the difference in size.	<b>30 READING</b> Have a family story time. Each person picks a book to read aloud. 	<b>31 WRITING</b> Write the names of each family member with chalk on the sidewalk. Stand on your name.				

## Children's reading success in kindergarten and beyond begins with positive language and literacy experiences from the time they are infants.

- Young children have shorter attention spans. You can do activities for short bits of time throughout the day or whenever you have the chance.
- You can help your children learn in ways and at times that are best for them.
- Parents are tremendous role models—if your children see that you think reading is important and enjoy it, they will follow your lead.
- Children learn best by doing—and they love doing things with YOU!

### WHEELS ON THE BUS

The wheels on the bus go round and round,  
Round and round, round and round.

The wheels on the bus go round and round,  
All around the town.

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish . . .

The driver on the bus says "move on back" . . .

The people on the bus go up and down . . .

The babies on the bus go "wah, wah, wah" . . .

The parents on the bus go "shh, shh, shh" . . .

ADAPTATION: THE HORSE ON THE FARM  
GOES "NEIGH, NEIGH, NEIGH"; COW, LAMB, PIG, ETC.

### IF I WERE A BIRD

If I were a bird, I'd sing a song  
And fly about the whole day long.  
And when the night comes, go to rest,  
Up in my cozy little nest.



# Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

## FOR READERS AGES 0-3

### Black Bird Yellow Sun

by Steve Light

### A Parade of Elephants

by Kevin Henkes

## FOR READERS AGES 3+

### ¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market

by Raül Gonzalez,  
aka Raül the Third  
(Text is in English and Spanish)

### Good Rosie!

by Kate DiCamillo



# SEPTEMBER 2021

## Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY

MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY

### 1 WRITING

Label things today.

*Chair. Shoe. Door.*

Tell your child what the labels say.

### 2 PLAYING

Blow bubbles—this strengthens muscles needed for speech.



FRIDAY

### 3 TALKING

Discuss opposites. Show examples of big and small. Light and dark. Night and day.

SATURDAY

### 4 SINGING

Clap your hands to the beat of a favorite song.



### 5 COUNTING

Lace Cheerios onto a piece of yarn and then count them.



### 6 READING

Read a book or find information about insects that are active in late summer, like crickets or cicadas. Talk about how you can hear them at night.

### 7 WRITING

Write your to-do list together. Have your child check off each as it is completed.

### 8 PLAYING

Play alphabet search today. Take turns picking a letter and searching for it throughout the day.

### 9 TALKING

Talk about something your child hasn't experienced and explain what happens.

### 10 SINGING

How many ways can you move to the music? Play a favorite song and clap, march, spin, and tap.

### 11 COUNTING

Count how many red cars you see today. Tally up at the end of the day.

### 12 READING

Have a friends book club. Each friend brings a book for a story time.

### 13 WRITING

Pop bubble wrap or play with squirt toys to develop muscles needed for writing.

### 14 PLAYING

Tape a sheet of contact paper to the wall, sticky side out. See which toys stick and which toys do not.

### 15 TALKING

Make silly sounds today. Encourage your child to imitate you.



### 16 SINGING

Sing "Now it's bath time, now it's bath time, yes, it is" to the tune of "Frere Jacques."

### 17 COUNTING

Take a walk and count how many birds or squirrels you see.

### 18 READING

Visit the library and help your child select books to check out.



### 19 WRITING

Use cooked pieces of spaghetti to make shapes and letters.



### 20 PLAYING

Go on a scavenger hunt today. Look for things that start with the "p" sound, like a plate, a pan, and a pen.

### 21 TALKING

Take turns telling each other simple stories.

### 22 SINGING

Recite a nursery rhyme like "Humpty Dumpty." (Words are on the back. ➡)

### 23 COUNTING

Use blocks to measure how long something is. How many blocks long is your arm, your foot, etc.?

### 24 READING

Before you start reading a book look at the cover together and ask your child what they think will happen in the book. Discuss.

### 25 WRITING

Write your child's first name. Talk about the first letter of their name. Make the sound and say words that begin with the letter.

### 26 PLAYING

Sing "Scarecrow, Scarecrow" and do all the movements. (Words are on the back. ➡)

### 27 TALKING

Use family photos to tell different stories. Encourage your child to tell a story.

### 28 SINGING

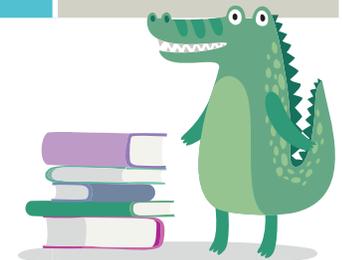
Recite a nursery rhyme like "Hickory Dickory Dock." (Words are on the back. ➡)

### 29 COUNTING

Time how long it takes to walk one block. Show your child the time at the beginning and at the end.

### 30 READING

Relate the story in a book to your child's experiences. "Remember when you saw a red car?"



## Playing to Learn New Words

Play and have fun with words:

- Read a book with lots of made-up words like “How Do You Wokka-Wokka?” by Elizabeth Bluemle. Many books by Dr. Seuss also are excellent for this purpose. Try making up more words to go with the story.
- Silly poems are fun and can teach new vocabulary.
- Kids love riddles and jokes, which often use a “play on words.” Laugh along as you talk about the answer to the riddle or joke.
- Having fun with words helps your child become more conscious of words and happy to keep learning.



### HUMPTY DUMPTY

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.  
All the king's horses and all the King's men  
Could not put Humpty together again.

### HICKORY DICKORY DOCK

Hickory Dickory Dock,  
The mouse ran up the clock.  
The clock struck one  
And down he run.  
Hickory Dickory Dock  
Tick Tock!

### SCARECROW, SCARECROW

*Sing to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”*

Scarecrow, scarecrow, turn around,  
Scarecrow, scarecrow, touch the ground.  
Stand up tall and blink your eyes.  
Raise your hands up to the sky.  
Scarecrow, scarecrow, touch your toes.  
Scarecrow, scarecrow, tap your nose.  
Swing your arms so very slow,  
Now real fast to scare the crows.  
Raise your head, jump up and down.  
Now sit down without a sound.

# Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

## FOR READERS AGES 0-3

### Lola at the Library

*by Anna McQuinn*

### The Little Red Cat Who Ran Away and Learned his ABCs the Hard Way

*by Patrick McDonnell*

## FOR READERS AGES 3+

### Now

*by Antoinette Portis*

### Let's Scare Bear

*by Yuko Katakawa*



# OCTOBER 2021

## Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



### 1 WRITING

Start a list of things to do this week. Talk about it and decide who will do each.

### 2 PLAYING

Cut out pictures of food from magazines. Let your child choose which to use and glue those onto a paper plate.

### 3 TALKING

Talk about the weather today and what you should wear outside.



### 4 SINGING

Sing "good morning" using the Happy Birthday song. "One for you and one for me and one for Daddy. Two for you, two for me, and two for Daddy."

*Good morning to you, good morning to you. Good morning to (your child's name), good morning to you!"*

### 5 COUNTING

Count out a healthy snack.

*"One for you and one for me and one for Daddy. Two for you, two for me, and two for Daddy."*

### 6 READING

Go the library and take out a new book. Talk about new words you come across while reading the new book.

### 7 WRITING

Write a grocery list together. Go around checking what you need and add it to the list.

### 8 PLAYING

Take a walk outside. Collect colorful leaves. Try to find as many different types as possible.



### 9 TALKING

Expand on what your child says.

*"Yes, we saw a dog at the park. It was large and brown and wagging its tail."*

### 10 SINGING

Take turns singing bits of the alphabet song.

### 11 COUNTING

Trace the hand of each person in your family. Whose hand is bigger? Whose is smaller?

### 12 READING

Try to spot letters on license plates today. How many can you see?

### 13 WRITING

Write your child's name in big letters. Talk about each letter.

### 14 PLAYING

Play "I Spy" with rhyming words.

*"I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with fall. What is it? Yes! A ball!"*

### 15 TALKING

Read a book together. Ask "what" questions.

*What is happening here? What do you think will happen next?*

### 16 SINGING

Sing "Five Little Speckled Frogs" (Words are on the back. ➡)

### 17 COUNTING

Pick a point in your house or on your block. Count the steps to get there.



### 18 READING

Hold a favorite book upside-down or start reading it backwards. Talk about what is "wrong" with the way you are reading the book.

### 19 WRITING

Take turns drawing pictures and telling about what you draw.

### 20 PLAYING

Play "restaurant." Create a menu together.

### 21 TALKING

Talk about sounds you like. I like the sound of kittens. Try making the sounds.

### 22 SINGING

Sing "If You're Happy and You Know It" (Words are on the back. ➡)



### 23 COUNTING

Count the number of pumpkins you see today. Keep a tally.

### 24 READING

Read a book about Fall.

### 25 WRITING

Write a list of words that rhyme with dog.



### 26 PLAYING

Play a rhyming riddle game.

*"What do you see that rhymes with 'bee'? Yes, a tree!"*

### 27 TALKING

Smell different things and talk about them: spices, flowers, fruit, and cocoa. Which scents do you like or dislike?

### 28 SINGING

Dance to a fast song and then dance to a slow song. Clap along to both songs.

### 29 COUNTING

What three things would fit inside your pumpkin? What three things won't fit?

### 31 WRITING

Make a list of things you liked most about this month.

### 30 READING

Read a book about Halloween.



## Parents are tremendous role models.

If your children see that you think reading is important and enjoy it, they will follow your lead. When you go to the library, check-out books for you and your children. Put your books somewhere at home where your child can see them. Let your children see you reading. Talk about what you've read, even if it is just to say, "That was a good book. I liked reading it."

### FIVE LITTLE SPECKLED FROGS

Five Little speckled frogs  
Sat on a speckled log  
Eating the most delicious bugs  
YUM!  
One jumped into the pool  
Where it was nice and cool  
Then there were four speckled frogs.  
Then there were three speckled frogs.  
Then there were two speckled frogs.  
Then there was one speckled frog.  
Then there were no speckled frogs.



### IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands  
(clap, clap)  
If you're happy and you know it clap your hands  
(clap, clap)  
If you're happy and you know and you really  
want to show it  
If you're happy and you know it clap your hands  
(clap, clap)

#### REPEAT USING:

If you're happy and you know it stomp your feet!  
If you're happy and you know it shout Hooray!  
If you're happy and you know it do all three.

# Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

## FOR READERS AGES 0-3

### Ten Tiny Babies

by Karen Katz

### Kindness Makes Us Strong

by Sophie Beer

## FOR READERS AGES 3+

### Baby Monkey, Private Eye

by Brian Selznick and  
David Serlin

### Jabari Jumps

by Gaia Cornwell



# NOVEMBER 2021

## Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1 WRITING</b> Create a list of things to do this month. Hang it up where everyone can see. Have your child check off items as they are completed.	<b>2 PLAYING</b> Go for a walk after dark. Pretend you are an explorer. Talk about what you see. 	<b>3 TALKING</b> At the end of the day talk about everything that happened. What did you like best about today?	<b>4 SINGING</b> Have a family sing-along. Each person gets to pick a favorite song. 	<b>5 COUNTING</b> Draw numbers 1-10 in big puffy letters. Help your child color in each one as you say each one.	<b>6 READING</b> Read a book that won the Caldecott Medal. The library will help you find one based on what your child likes.
<b>7 WRITING</b> Write a message to someone important. 	<b>8 PLAYING</b> Play "I Spy" with rhyming words. <i>"I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with hat. Yes, a cat!"</i>	<b>9 TALKING</b> In the morning talk about what you will do today. What are you especially excited to do?	<b>10 SINGING</b> Recite "Rub a Dub Dub." (Words are on the back. ➡)	<b>11 COUNTING</b> Make a story box together. (Follow the instructions on the back. ➡) 	<b>12 READING</b> Read a fiction and nonfiction book about fall. Your library has lots to choose from!	<b>13 WRITING</b> Draw your child's name in big puffy letters. Help them color in the letters as you say each one.
<b>14 PLAYING</b> Make an indoor fort with sheets and furniture. Pretend you are sleeping there overnight. What will you bring? Read a book together in the cozy fort.	<b>15 TALKING</b> Wish upon a star tonight. Recite "Star Light, Star Bright." (Words are on the back. ➡) 	<b>16 SINGING</b> Sing a favorite rhyming song. Stop at the end of a line and have your child fill in the word. (See "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" on the back. ➡)	<b>17 COUNTING</b> Take turns naming things that begin with the first letter of your child's first name.	<b>18 READING</b> Snuggle together and read two favorite books and one new book you haven't read yet.	<b>19 WRITING</b> Scribble day! Have lots of papers, markers, crayons for your child to scribble and draw.	<b>20 PLAYING</b> Take turns naming animals and making animal sounds.
<b>21 TALKING</b> Talk about opposites. Reach high to the sky and low to the ground. Take a big step and a little step.	<b>22 SINGING</b> Play favorite songs. Bounce, tap, clap to songs with rhythm.	<b>23 COUNTING</b> See how many cotton balls you can fit into a variety of different-sized containers. <i>"How many can fit in this cup? How many can fit in your pocket?"</i>	<b>24 READING</b> Read a book about Thanksgiving. 	<b>25 WRITING</b> Make a book with your child. Draw letters and pictures to tell a story. Tape the pages together.	<b>26 PLAYING</b> Go for a morning walk. Walk slow. Walk fast. (Toddler pace). Repeat.	<b>27 TALKING</b> Ask your child "What is your favorite toy?" Have a conversation about the answer.
<b>28 SINGING</b> March to a drum. Use any empty container to act as a drum, then play the drum and march to the tempo, going from slow to fast.	<b>29 COUNTING</b> Make a number path! <i>Write one number on ten pieces of paper. Tape each piece to the floor. Recite each number as your child walks the path.</i>	<b>30 READING</b> Read a book about Winter.				

## Listening to nursery rhymes and songs is an early literacy experience that helps children understand how language and stories work.

Recite rhymes and sing songs with children from the time they are infants. This helps them become aware of and then play with the sounds in the words. Many rhymes tell a story with a beginning, middle, and end. This shows children how stories work and that events happen in a sequence. Good readers understand that stories and books have a beginning, middle, and end. After reciting a rhyme or singing a song ask your child about the song. What happened at the beginning? What happened at the end?

### RUB A DUB DUB

Rub a Dub Dub

Three Men in a Tub

And Who Do You Think They Be?

The Butcher, The Baker, The Candlestick  
Maker

And All of the them Out to Sea

### MAKE A STORY BOX

1. Use a small box and decorate it together. Label it Story Box.
2. Find random pictures with no words to add to the story box.
3. At story time each person takes a picture (without peeking) and tells a short story about the picture. Use family snapshots, advertisements from magazines, and other pictures.

### TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR

Twinkle, twinkle, little star

How I wonder what you are

Up above the world so high

Like a diamond in the sky

Twinkle, twinkle little star

How I wonder what you are

### STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT

Star light, star bright,

The first star I see tonight;

I wish I may, I wish I might,

Have the wish I wish tonight.



# Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

## FOR READERS AGES 0-3

### The Going to Bed Book

by Sandra Boynton

### All the World

by Liz Garton Scanlon

## FOR READERS AGES 3+

### Stop Bot!

By James Yang

### The Day the Crayons Quit

by Drew Daywalt and  
Oliver Jeffers



# DECEMBER 2021

## Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



### 1 WRITING

Make a winter card to send to someone special. Who will you send it to? Use a stamp and post the letter in a mailbox.

### 2 PLAYING

Make an indoor fort with sheets and furniture. Cuddle together and read favorite books.



### 3 TALKING

Talk about family traditions you'll celebrate this month. Look at photos from previous years and talk about things you will do again this year.

### 4 SINGING

Change the way you sing a familiar song. Sing it faster or slower. Change up the words.

### 5 COUNTING

Weigh your child and write it here \_\_\_\_\_. Compare it to January and June.

### 6 READING

Read books about different holidays and how people celebrate them.



### 7 WRITING

Wrap and unwrap blocks with tin foil. This helps strengthen writing muscles and manual dexterity.

### 8 PLAYING

Pretend to be an animal that likes cold weather. Who will you be?

### 9 TALKING

Talk about your feelings. What made you happy today?

### 10 SINGING

Sing "The Frost Song." (Words are on the back. ➔)

### 11 COUNTING

Measure your child's height and mark it here \_\_\_\_\_. Compare it to January and June.

### 12 READING

Read a fiction and nonfiction book about winter. Your library has many to choose from!

### 13 WRITING

Draw a circle, square, triangle, and rectangle, and have your child color them in. Talk about shapes and point them out today.

### 14 PLAYING

Trace a variety of different objects on a piece of paper. Match the objects to their shapes.

### 15 TALKING

At mealtimes, talk about the food you are preparing, what tools you are using, how you are making it, and how it will taste.

### 16 SINGING

Recite "Three Little Kittens." (Words are on the back. ➔)



### 17 COUNTING

Make a high tower with blocks. How many blocks did you use?

### 18 READING

Be a reading role model. Let your child see you reading a book, magazine, or newspaper.

### 19 WRITING

Have each family member write one thing they liked about this week. Have your child decorate the paper.

### 20 PLAYING

Use play dough or cloud dough to make a snowman.

### 21 TALKING

Talk about the seasons: Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall.



### 22 SINGING

Sing "Cold and Snowy Morning." (Words are on the back. ➔)

### 23 COUNTING

Name three things that are white like snow.



### 24 READING

Write letters on strips of paper, add them to a container and have your child draw one. Use that letter as the letter of the day. Spend the day finding the letter.

### 25 WRITING

Pick one color and only use that to cover a whole page with scribbles and pictures.

### 26 PLAYING

Go for a short walk after dark. What do you see? What does it feel like outside?

### 27 TALKING

Talk about favorite things that happened in 2020.

### 28 SINGING

Sing nonsense words to a familiar tune. Sha la la. Doo bee doo bee do bee do wop bop, etc.

### 29 COUNTING

Work together to put a stack of children's books in order from largest to smallest.

### 30 READING

Snuggle together and read a book of nursery rhymes. The library can help you find one.

### 31 WRITING

With your child, write a list of things you plan to do in 2022.



## Your library helps children get ready to read.

- The library has many materials and ideas you can use to talk, sing, read, write, play, and count with your child. It doesn't matter if your child is four days old or four years old, we have books, music, programs, and services to help your child develop language and prereading skills.
- We have books to read together, music to borrow, places where you can write, places to play and learn, and programs for all ages.

### THE THREE LITTLE KITTENS

The three little kittens, they lost  
their mittens,  
And they began to cry,  
"Oh, mother dear, we sadly fear,  
That we have lost our mittens."  
"You lost your mittens?  
Your poor little kittens.  
Well, let us have some pie.  
Meow, Meow, Meow  
Let us have some pie."

### THE FROST SONG

*Sing to the tune of  
"The Farmer in the Dell"*

The frost is in the air.  
The frost is in the air.  
It's wintertime, it's wintertime,  
The frost is in the air.

The frost tells me it's cold.  
The frost tells me it's cold.  
It's wintertime, it's wintertime,  
The frost tells me it's cold.

SING OTHER VERSES IN WHICH THE  
FROST IS "ON THE ROOF," "ON THE  
WINDOWS," AND "ON THE GROUND"

### COLD AND SNOWY MORNING

*Sing to the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush"*

This is the way we put on our mittens	This is the way we shovel the snow
Put on our mittens	Shovel the snow
Put on our mittens	Shovel the snow
This is the way we put on our mittens	This the way we shovel the snow
On a cold and snowy morning	On a cold and snowy morning

This the way we put on our coats	This is the way we build a snowman
Put on our coats	Build a snowman
Put on our coats	Build a snowman
This is the way we put on our coats	This is the way we build a snowman
On a cold and snowy morning	On a cold and snowy morning.

This is way we put on our hats  
Put on our hats  
Put on our hats  
This is the way we put on our hats  
On a cold and snowy morning



# Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

## FOR READERS AGES 0-3

### Who? A Celebration of Babies

*by Robie Harris*

### Baby Beluga board book

*by Raffi*

## FOR READERS AGES 3+

### Stars

*by Mary Lyn Ray*

### This is Not My Hat

*by Jon Klassen*

