## JANUARY 2021

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>WRITING</strong></td>
<td>2. <strong>PLAYING</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Draw the numbers 2021 and color them with your child.</td>
<td>Play 'Riddle Me.'</td>
<td>I’m white and cold and fun to play in. What am I? Yes! Snow! Take turns offering riddles.</td>
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<td>Have a conversation about winter. Ask your child, “What is your favorite thing about winter?” Tell what your favorite thing is about winter.</td>
<td>Sing “The Rhyming Word” song. <em>(Words are on the back.)</em></td>
<td>Weigh your child and write it here ______. Save the calendar and measure again in June.</td>
<td>Visit the library (or the library’s website if the building is not open) and check out a book.</td>
<td>With your child write (and talk about) important dates on a 2021 calendar.</td>
<td>Create a small obstacle course and give your child directions.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick a song your child is familiar with and act it out while it is playing.</td>
<td>Measure your child’s height and write it here ______. Save the calendar and measure again in June.</td>
<td>Use your finger to follow along with the words as you read aloud to your child today.</td>
<td>With your child write “Birthday” on each day in 2021 that is the birthday of a family member. Talk about what you are doing.</td>
<td>Play ‘Follow the Leader.’ Do things and ask your child to do the same. Touch your head, Turn around, Sit down.</td>
<td>Talk about food. Which food do you each think is the most delicious? What do you want to have for dinner?</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Count snacks. How many crackers are there?</td>
<td>Be a reading role model. Let your child catch you reading a book, a newspaper, or a magazine.</td>
<td>Write a list of things to do today. Have your child check off each as it is completed.</td>
<td>Go on a scavenger hunt. Look for things that begin with S. Shoe, sock, soap.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Sing a favorite song in a loud voice and then a quiet voice.</td>
<td>Measure your feet day! Line up all the family’s shoes and boots. Whose are biggest? The smallest?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read a book about winter.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Let’s dance! Play favorite songs that will inspire your child to do different things like jump and spin around.</td>
<td>Say the nursery rhyme “Hey Diddle Diddle.” <em>(Words are on the back.)</em> Talk about how funny it is. The cow jumps over the moon? The little dog laughs? The dish runs away with the spoon?</td>
<td>Take turns singing parts of the ABC song. Sing it fast and sing it slow.</td>
<td>Say the “Five Little Snowmen” rhyme. <em>(Words are on the back.)</em></td>
<td>Ask your child questions while you read to them today. What do you think will happen next? Where did the little dog go?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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
### Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

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

#### TUESDAY
- **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?

#### WEDNESDAY
- **SINGING**
  - Clap along to a favorite song. Emphasize the slow parts and the fast parts.

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

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

#### SATURDAY
- **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.

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<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>SINGING</td>
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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.

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 Ba La La La
by Sandra Boynton

FOR READERS AGES 3+

Mixed—A Colorful Story
by Arree Chung

Pinky Got Out!
By Michael Portis

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 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

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)

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!

REPEAT WITH “GREAT BIG SPIDER” USING A GRUFF, DEEP VOICE.
**MARCH 2021**

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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?</td>
<td>Talk about words that begin with &quot;m,&quot; like March, Mom, Milk.</td>
<td>Sing about what you are doing. This is how we brush our teeth, this is how we eat breakfast, etc.</td>
<td>Have your child help measure ingredients for a recipe by measuring and counting the number of cups or spoonfuls.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick a letter of the alphabet and practice tracing it.</td>
<td>Play &quot;I Spy&quot; with rhyming words. &quot;I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with fly. What is it? Yes, the sky.&quot;</td>
<td>Talk about what you are making for dinner. Name the different foods you will use.</td>
<td>Sing &quot;Five Little Froggies.&quot; (Words are on the back.)</td>
<td>Count blocks as your child stacks them. How many blocks before it topples over?</td>
<td>Look at wordless picture books together. Ask your child to help tell the story.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Line up chairs and pretend to drive a city bus. Take turns driving and being the passenger. Call out the stops!</td>
<td>Use a block to pretend to talk on the phone. Hand the block to your child and say, &quot;They want to talk to you.&quot;</td>
<td>Sing &quot;Old MacDonald Had a Farm&quot; after you read a book about farm animals. (Words are on the back.)</td>
<td>Use masking tape to measure yourself and your child on a wall. Compare the sizes. Who is taller? Who is shorter?</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Invite your child to write an email or text message to a friend or relative.</td>
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<td>Expand on comments your child makes. &quot;That is an airplane.&quot; / &quot;Where do you think it is going?&quot; / &quot;The tree is green.&quot; / &quot;What else is green?&quot;</td>
<td>Have a music parade. Play pretend instruments while you march around the house.</td>
<td>Collect a variety of pebbles and rocks. Write numerals on each. Help your child put them in order.</td>
<td>Share what you are reading with your child. Read aloud a portion of a magazine, book, or newspaper that you are reading.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Pretend to be birds. Flap your wings and whistle, sing, and tweet. Talk about your favorite birds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sing and dance &quot;The Hokey-Pokey.&quot; (Words and instructions are on the back.)</td>
<td>Create a to-do list for the day. Have your child check off each activity as it is completed.</td>
<td>Show your child a selection of books. Ask which they would prefer to read first.</td>
<td>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).</td>
<td>Create a list of books, ask which they would prefer to read first.</td>
<td>Point out the shapes of different objects, talk about how they are alike and different.</td>
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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)
Three little froggies 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
### Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

**APRIL 2021**

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<tr>
<td>Write your child a small note. Leave it where they will find it. Read it to them with excitement and expression.</td>
<td>Play a questioning game. Ask your child, “Where are your toes?”; “Where is your nose?”; “Where are your ears?”</td>
<td>Talk about Spring and how it is one of the four seasons. What will happen in Spring? What comes after Spring?</td>
<td>Help your child experiment with writing using pencils, crayons, markers, and chalk on different types of paper and cardboard.</td>
<td>Play follow the leader. One person (the leader) performs actions the others must follow. Take turns being the leader.</td>
<td>Say a favorite nursery rhyme, change an important word to something silly. Hickory-Dickory Dock, the mouse ran up the tree . . .</td>
<td>Sing “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” during bath time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sing a song in a high voice; sing it in a low voice. Sing it slow; sing it fast.</td>
<td>Find two items that are similar but different sizes. Talk about big and little.</td>
<td>Visit the library (in-person or online) and check out books about Spring.</td>
<td>Help your child experiment with writing using pencils, crayons, markers, and chalk on different types of paper and cardboard.</td>
<td>Play the letter day game. Find things all day that start with the first letter of your child’s first name.</td>
<td>Say a favorite nursery rhyme, change an important word to something silly.</td>
<td>Sing “I Hear Thunder.” (Words are on the back.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cut a piece of toast in half. Say, “Now we have two pieces the same size.”</td>
<td>Teach letter sounds by playing “I Spy.” “I spy with my little eye something that begins with S. Yes! A shoe!”</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Play the letter day game. Find things all day that start with the first letter of your child’s first name.</td>
<td>Use new describing words today. Say “enormous” instead of “big.” “Wonderful” instead of “great.”</td>
<td>Has it been raining a lot? Sing, “Rain, Rain, Go Away.”</td>
<td>Make up a song about something that is familiar or interesting to your child.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Get caught reading a book. Show your child reading is important to you too.</td>
<td>Get a dot painting with cotton swabs to help develop fine motor skills.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Choose a word of the day. Write the word down together. Use the word several times during the course of the day.</td>
<td>Make up a song about something that is familiar or interesting to your child.</td>
<td>Place several objects on a table. Ask which is largest, which is heaviest, which is smallest.</td>
<td>Write a few letters down on different pieces of paper. Place them around the room. Help your child find them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create a writing box together. Include paper and crayons. Decorate the outside and leave it within easy reach of your child.</td>
<td>Make a tent with sheets and furniture. Pretend you are camping. What do you see? What do you hear?</td>
<td>Say a favorite rhyme but leave off the last word. Have your child finish the sentence</td>
<td>Sing “I Hear Thunder.” (Words are on the back.)</td>
<td>Sort blocks by color. Count how many there are of each color.</td>
<td>Ask interactive questions while reading together. Where is the dog? Where is the cat?</td>
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**WWW.PLA.ORG**
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.

### 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

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**RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY**

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

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**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)*
### May 2021
Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

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<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writing</strong></td>
<td>Practice drawing shapes and letters in a tray of rice.</td>
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<td><strong>Playing</strong></td>
<td>Go on an outside scavenger hunt. Bring a list and check off the things you see.</td>
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<td><strong>Talking</strong></td>
<td>Say as many words as you can that rhyme with &quot;May.&quot;</td>
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<td><strong>Singing</strong></td>
<td>Use a homemade shaker and shake it to the beat of songs.</td>
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<td><strong>Counting</strong></td>
<td>Go for a walk. Take two big steps. Take three large steps. Count how many steps from your door to the sidewalk.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td>Ask your child to &quot;read&quot; to you by telling you their own story based on pictures in a book.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Writing</strong></td>
<td>Make a Mother's Day card and have your child sign their name.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Playing</strong></td>
<td>Play &quot;Riddle Me.&quot; I'm big, yellow, and hot. What am I? Yes! I am the sun!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Talking</strong></td>
<td>Talk about feelings you felt today. What made you laugh today?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Singing</strong></td>
<td>Sing &quot;The Farmer Plants the Seeds.&quot; (Words are on the back.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Counting</strong></td>
<td>Sing the &quot;The Ants Go Marching.&quot; (Words are on the back.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td>Draw out a story on 4–5 small pieces of paper. Help your child put the papers in proper sequence to tell the story.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Writing</strong></td>
<td>Playing with play dough strengthens muscles needed for writing. Roll dough into balls, press fingers into the dough, and make shapes.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Playing</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Talking</strong></td>
<td>Look for signs of spring. Go for a walk and talk about what you see. Point out new grass, birds, first flowers, leaf buds.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Singing</strong></td>
<td>Sing a favorite song. Sing it fast, sing it slow. Sing it loud. Whisper it.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Counting</strong></td>
<td>Ask questions about what is heavier. Does an orange or a grape weigh more? Is Mom's jacket or your jacket heavier?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td>Look into your library's summer reading program.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Writing</strong></td>
<td>Draw a large alphabet. Have your child practice finger tracing while you say the letters out loud.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Playing</strong></td>
<td>Go on an outside scavenger hunt. Look for shapes. How many different shapes can you find?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Talking</strong></td>
<td>Today is Friday. Talk about the days of the week. What will your family do this weekend?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Singing</strong></td>
<td>Play children's songs. Sing and dance together.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Counting</strong></td>
<td>Draw numbers on the sidewalk with chalk.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td>Have your child tell you a story about pictures they draw.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Writing</strong></td>
<td>Help your child begin to recognize words for a few common objects by labeling them. Shoe, Table, Door.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Playing</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Talking</strong></td>
<td>When reading a book today stop before you get to the end and ask your child what they think will happen next.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Singing</strong></td>
<td>You: ABCDEFG Child: HIJKLMNOP Continue taking turns to finish the alphabet.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Counting</strong></td>
<td>Count the number of eggs in a carton. Explain that 12 items together is also called a dozen.</td>
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**WWW.PLA.ORG**
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.

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

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)

THE END.
### Daily Literacy-Building Activities

**JUNE 2021**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Draw outside with sidewalk chalk. Draw letters and shapes.</td>
<td>Make bubbles outside. Talk about the bubbles. What shape are they? Which way will they go? Can you catch one?</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Recite &quot;Little Miss Muffet.&quot; (Words are on the back. 🎵)</td>
<td>Measure your child’s height and mark it here _______. Compare to January’s measurement.</td>
<td>Make a paper bag puppet. Have the puppet read a book.</td>
<td>In the morning write today’s to-do list. Check things off as you do them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PLAYING</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Make a paper bag puppet. Have the puppet read a book.</td>
<td>Talk about colors. What is your favorite color and why? Find your favorite color as many times as you can today.</td>
<td>Sing a favorite song. Then sing it again but make up new words.</td>
<td>Weigh your child and write it here _______. How does it compare to January?</td>
<td>Go to the library and pick out a book about Summer.</td>
<td>Write today’s to-do list. Check things off as you do them.</td>
<td>Sit on cushions on the floor and pretend to be in a boat. Sing “Row, Row, Your Boat.” (Words are on the back. 🎵)</td>
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<td>Recite the nursery rhyme “Diddle Diddle Dumpling.” (Words are on the back. 🎵)</td>
<td>Have a parade. Put on music and march around. Pretend to play instruments.</td>
<td>Play the letter day game. Look for words that begin with “S” like Summer.</td>
<td>Talk about Summer. What are your favorite things to do in the Summer? How are Summer and Winter different?</td>
<td>Count the number of kisses you give your child today.</td>
<td>Look at a magazine together. Explain some of the pictures or illustrations.</td>
<td>Ask W questions after reading a book. (Who, What, Where, When, Why). Who is your favorite animal on this page? What happened here?</td>
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<td>Count the number of kisses you give your child today.</td>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>Play the letter day game. Look for words that begin with “S” like Summer.</td>
<td>Sing a favorite song. Then sing it again but make up new words.</td>
<td>Go for a walk. Pick something and count how many you see. (Cars, trees, flowers, clouds, birds, squirrels, etc.).</td>
<td>Play Red Light Green Light (Instructions are on the back. 🎵)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Go to the library and pick out a book about Summer.</td>
<td>Make a book of your child’s favorite words. Talk about the words and draw pictures.</td>
<td>Go for a walk. Pick something and count how many you see. (Cars, trees, flowers, clouds, birds, squirrels, etc.).</td>
<td>Count the number of kisses you give your child today.</td>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>Make up a song using words that rhyme with dog.</td>
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<tr>
<td>In the morning write today’s to-do list. Check things off as you do them.</td>
<td>Make a book of your child’s favorite words. Talk about the words and draw pictures.</td>
<td>Count the number of kisses you give your child today.</td>
<td>While reading a familiar book today, pause here and there to allow your child to say some of the words.</td>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>Have a parade. Put on music and march around. Pretend to play instruments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talk about food. What do you like to eat?</td>
<td>Talk about food. What do you like to eat?</td>
<td>Play the letter day game. Look for words that begin with “S” like Summer.</td>
<td>Talk about colors. What is your favorite color and why? Find your favorite color as many times as you can today.</td>
<td>Count the number of kisses you give your child today.</td>
<td>Look at a magazine together. Explain some of the pictures or illustrations.</td>
<td>Sing a favorite song. Then sing it again but make up new words.</td>
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<td>Weigh your child and write it here _______. How does it compare to January?</td>
<td>Make a book of your child’s favorite words. Talk about the words and draw pictures.</td>
<td>Count the number of kisses you give your child today.</td>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>Make a book of your child’s favorite words. Talk about the words and draw pictures.</td>
<td>Ask W questions after reading a book. (Who, What, Where, When, Why). Who is your favorite animal on this page? What happened here?</td>
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**WWW.PLA.ORG**
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

**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.

**ROW YOUR BOAT**
Row, Row, Row, Your Boat
Gently Down the Stream
Merrily, Merrily, Merrily, Merrily
Life is But a Dream

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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.

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<tr>
<td>Plan a picnic. Write a list of things you will need to bring. Check off the list as you locate the items.</td>
<td>Play &quot;Big Steps, Little Steps&quot; outside. Call out which you and your child should use. Big Steps (take big steps); Little Steps (take tiny tiptoe steps)</td>
<td>Talk about today's weather. What should you wear?</td>
<td>Play music with a fast tempo as you pick up and put away toys.</td>
<td>Talk about things you do in the morning, things you do in the afternoon, and things you do at night.</td>
<td>&quot;I spy something that has three wheels and is pink. Yes! Your bike.&quot;</td>
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<td>Sing a song with movement, like &quot;BINGO.&quot; (Words are on the back. 🎉)</td>
<td>Have your child help cook with a recipe. &quot;We will need six eggs. One cup of flour,&quot; etc.</td>
<td>Look at the cover of a book before reading it. Point out the book's title, and say &quot;The name of this book is...&quot;</td>
<td>Write a message and tuck it in your child's shoe. Read it together when your child finds it.</td>
<td>Play the letter day game. Look for things that begin with the first letter of your child's name.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sing or recite &quot;Mary Had a Little Lamb.&quot; (Words are on the back. 🎉)</td>
<td>Count how many birds you see today.</td>
<td>Play &quot;Echo Me.&quot; Clap, stomp, or beat a drum, and have your child repeat the noise.</td>
<td>Sing or recite &quot;Mary Had a Little Lamb.&quot; (Words are on the back. 🎉)</td>
<td>Use a fruit or vegetable your child hasn't seen before. Talk about how it looks, feels, smells, tastes.</td>
<td>Create a grocery list with your child. Look at what you have and what you need to purchase.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Count how many birds you see today.</td>
<td>Use a piece of string to measure things. What is longer? What is shorter?</td>
<td>Use your finger to follow along with the words.</td>
<td>Print is everywhere. Point out words wherever you go today.</td>
<td>&quot;I spy something that has three wheels and is pink. Yes! Your bike.&quot;</td>
<td>Read a book talk about your favorite part.</td>
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<td>Have your child help cook with a recipe. &quot;We will need six eggs. One cup of flour,&quot; etc.</td>
<td>Count how many birds you see today.</td>
<td>After reading a book talk about your favorite part.</td>
<td>Help your child draw a picture of a summer activity. Have your child &quot;sign&quot; the picture.</td>
<td>Give your child a riddle. &quot;I'm smaller than your hand, I'm purple, and I'm in the kitchen. What am I? Yes! A grape.&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;I spy something that has three wheels and is pink. Yes! Your bike.&quot;</td>
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<td>Have your child help cook with a recipe. &quot;We will need six eggs. One cup of flour,&quot; etc.</td>
<td>Count how many birds you see today.</td>
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<td>Give your child a riddle. &quot;I'm smaller than your hand, I'm purple, and I'm in the kitchen. What am I? Yes! A grape.&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;I spy something that has three wheels and is pink. Yes! Your bike.&quot;</td>
<td>Create a grocery list with your child. Look at what you have and what you need to purchase.</td>
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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.

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**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.

---

**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
and Bingo was his name-oh.

There was a farmer who had a dog
and Bingo was his name-oh.
(clap)B-I-N-G-O,
(clap)B-I-N-G-O
(clap)B-I-N-G-O
and Bingo was his name-oh.

CONTINUE UNTIL ALL THE LETTERS IN BINGO’S NAME ARE REPLACED WITH CLAPS.
### AUGUST 2021

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 WRITING</strong></td>
<td><strong>PLAYING</strong></td>
<td><strong>TALKING</strong></td>
<td><strong>SINGING</strong></td>
<td><strong>COUNTING</strong></td>
<td><strong>READING</strong></td>
<td><strong>WRITING</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sit outside and write a list of seven things you see.</td>
<td>Paint on the sidewalk with water. Watch it evaporate.</td>
<td>Make this &quot;same and different&quot; day. &quot;How are our socks the same and different? They go on our feet and they are different colors.&quot;</td>
<td>Make music with things you have in the house, like pots, pans, spoons, boxes, and cups.</td>
<td>Talk about time. How long does it take to get to Grandma’s house? How long does it take to get to the park?</td>
<td>Read a nonfiction book about birds. Talk about what you’ve learned. Say the rhyme &quot;If I Were a Bird.&quot; (Words are on the back. 📝)</td>
<td>Label the things in your child’s room. Bed, dresser, table, book, closet. Point to the words and discuss as you put things away.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>PLAYING</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Play with blocks. What can you make? Form the blocks into a letter shape.</td>
<td>Take an alphabet walk outside. Talk about things that begin with different letter sounds.</td>
<td>Sing a bedtime story. Encourage your child to sing with you.</td>
<td>Put five stuffed animals in order from smallest to largest.</td>
<td>Go to the library and check out a new book.</td>
<td>Draw a picture for a grandparent or other very important person.</td>
<td>Play “What Fits?” &quot;Will your hat fit under your bed? Will the refrigerator fit in your pocket?&quot;</td>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sing a &quot;good morning&quot; song to greet your child in the morning.</td>
<td>Line-up all of the family’s shoes. Count how many there are. Put them in size order from smallest to largest.</td>
<td>Point out signs everywhere you go today. Explain what they say and how they help.</td>
<td>Draw shapes on the sidewalk. Draw a triangle, a square, a circle, and a rectangle. Talk about how they are different.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Offer choices today. Do you want this book or that one? Do you want water or milk? Would you like a banana or strawberries?</td>
<td>Sing &quot;The Wheels on the Bus.&quot; (Words are on the back. 📝)</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trace around your hand and around your child’s hand. Talk about the difference in size.</td>
<td>Have a family story time. Each person picks a book to read aloud.</td>
<td>Write the names of each family member with chalk on the sidewalk. Stand on your name.</td>
<td>Play the yes-no game about time. Is it time for breakfast? Is it time to read? Is it time for kisses?</td>
<td>Before going to bed talk about things you did this morning, this afternoon, and tonight.</td>
<td>Have a family story time. Each person picks a book to read aloud.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*WWW.PLA.ORG*
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" . . .

**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.

**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 Raúl Gonzalez, aka Raúl the Third
(Text is in English and Spanish)
Good Rosie!
by Kate DiCamillo

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.
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<td><strong>6 READING</strong></td>
<td><strong>7 WRITING</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Label things today. Chair. Shoe. Door.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Blow bubbles—this strengthens muscles needed for speech.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Discuss opposites. Show examples of big and small. Light and dark. Night and day.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Clap your hands to the beat of a favorite song.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lace Cheerios onto a piece of yarn and then count them.</strong></td>
<td><strong>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.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Write your to-do list together. Have your child check off each as it is completed.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7 WRITING</strong></td>
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<td><strong>13 WRITING</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Write alphabet search today. Take turns picking a letter and searching for it throughout the day.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talk about something your child hasn't experienced and explain what happens.</strong></td>
<td><strong>How many ways can you move to the music? Play a favorite song and clap, march, spin, and tap.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Count how many red cars you see today. Tally up at the end of the day.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Have a friends book club. Each friend brings a book for a story time.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pop bubble wrap or play with squirt toys to develop muscles needed for writing.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tape a sheet of contact paper to the wall, sticky side out. See which toys stick and which toys do not.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>14 PLAYING</strong></td>
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<td><strong>16 SINGING</strong></td>
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<td><strong>18 READING</strong></td>
<td><strong>19 WRITING</strong></td>
<td><strong>20 PLAYING</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tape a sheet of contact paper to the wall, sticky side out. See which toys stick and which toys do not.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Make silly sounds today. Encourage your child to imitate you.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sing “Now it’s bath time, now it’s bath time, yes, it is” to the tune of “Frere Jacques.”</strong></td>
<td><strong>Count how many birds or squirrels you see.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Visit the library and help your child select books to check out.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Use cooked pieces of spaghetti to make shapes and letters.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Go on a scavenger hunt today. Look for things that start with the &quot;p&quot; sound, like a plate, a pan, and a pen.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>21 TALKING</strong></td>
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<td><strong>23 COUNTING</strong></td>
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<td><strong>25 WRITING</strong></td>
<td><strong>26 PLAYING</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Take turns telling each other simple stories.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Recite a nursery rhyme like “Humpty Dumpty.” (Words are on the back.)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Use blocks to measure how long something is. How many blocks long is your arm, your foot, etc.?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Before you start reading a book look at the cover together and ask your child what they think will happen in the book. Discuss.</strong></td>
<td><strong>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.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sing “Scarecrow, Scarecrow” and do all the movements. (Words are on the back.)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Use family photos to tell different stories. Encourage your child to tell a story.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>28 SINGING</strong></td>
<td><strong>29 COUNTING</strong></td>
<td><strong>30 READING</strong></td>
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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. Suess 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

**SINGING**

- Sing “good morning” using the Happy Birthday song: “Good morning to you, good morning to you. Good morning to (your child’s name), good morning to you!”

### Monday

**TALKING**

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

**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.”

### Tuesday

**READING**

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

**WRITING**

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

### Wednesday

**PLAYING**

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

**TALKING**

- Expand on what your child says. “Yes, we saw a dog at the park. It was large and brown and wagging its tail.”

### Thursday

**SINGING**

- Sing “Five Little Speckled Frogs” (Words are on the back.)

**COUNTING**

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

### Friday

**WRITING**

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

**PLAYING**

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

**TALKING**

- Take turns singing bits of the alphabet song.

### Saturday

**SINGING**

- Sing “If You’re Happy and You Know It” (Words are on the back.)

**COUNTING**

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

**WRITING**

- Read a book about Fall.

**PLAYING**

- Play a rhyming riddle game. “What do you see that rhymes with ‘bee’? Yes, a tree!”

**TALKING**

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

**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
<table>
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Go for a walk after dark. Pretend you are an explorer. Talk about what you see.</td>
<td>At the end of the day talk about everything that happened. What did you like best about today?</td>
<td>Have a family sing-along. Each person gets to pick a favorite song.</td>
<td>Draw numbers 1–10 in big puffy letters. Help your child color in each one as you say each one.</td>
<td>Read a book that won the Caldecott Medal. The library will help you find one based on what your child likes.</td>
<td>Write a message to someone important.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write &quot;I Spy&quot; with rhyming words. &quot;I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with hat. Yes, a cat!&quot;</td>
<td>Play &quot;I Spy&quot; with rhyming words.</td>
<td>In the morning talk about what you will do today. What are you especially excited to do?</td>
<td>Recite &quot;Rub a Dub Dub.&quot; (Words are on the back. 📖)</td>
<td>Make a story box together. (Follow the instructions on the back. 📖)</td>
<td>Read a fiction and nonfiction book about fall. Your library has lots to choose from!</td>
<td>Draw your child's name in big puffy letters. Help them color in the letters as you say each one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Wish upon a star tonight. Recite &quot;Star Light, Star Bright.&quot; (Words are on the back. 📖)</td>
<td>Sing a favorite rhyming song. Stop at the end of a line and have your child fill in the word. (See &quot;Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star&quot; on the back. 📖)</td>
<td>Take turns naming things that begin with the first letter of your child's first name.</td>
<td>Snuggle together and read two favorite books and one new book you haven't read yet.</td>
<td>Scribble day! Have lots of papers, markers, crayons for your child to scribble and draw.</td>
<td>Take turns naming animals and making animal sounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talk about opposites. Reach high to the sky and low to the ground. Take a big step and a little step.</td>
<td>Play favorite songs. Bounce, tap, clap to songs with rhythm.</td>
<td>See how many cotton balls you can fit into a variety of different-sized containers. &quot;How many can fit in this cup? How many can fit in your pocket?&quot;</td>
<td>Read a book about Thanksgiving.</td>
<td>Make a book with your child. Draw letters and pictures to tell a story. Tape the pages together.</td>
<td>Go for a morning walk. Walk slow. Walk fast. (Toddler pace). Repeat.</td>
<td>Ask your child &quot;What is your favorite toy?&quot; Have a conversation about the answer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Make a number path! Write one number on ten pieces of paper. Tape each piece to the floor. Recite each number as your child walks the path.</td>
<td>Read a book about Winter.</td>
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</table>
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?

**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*

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**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.
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<tr>
<td><strong>WRITING</strong>&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
<td><strong>PLAYING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Make an indoor fort with sheets and furniture. Cuddle together and read favorite books.</td>
<td><strong>TALKING</strong>&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
<td><strong>SINGING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Change the way you sing a familiar song. Sing it faster or slower. Change up the words.</td>
<td><strong>COUNTING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Weigh your child and write it here _______. Compare it to January and June.</td>
<td><strong>READING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Read books about different holidays and how people celebrate them.</td>
<td><strong>WRITING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Wrap and unwrap blocks with tin foil. This helps strengthen writing muscles and manual dexterity.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WRITING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Wrap and unwrap blocks with tin foil. This helps strengthen writing muscles and manual dexterity.</td>
<td><strong>PLAYING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Pretend to be an animal that likes cold weather. Who will you be?</td>
<td><strong>TALKING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Talk about your feelings. What made you happy today?</td>
<td><strong>SINGING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sing &quot;The Frost Song.&quot; (Words are on the back.)</td>
<td><strong>COUNTING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Measure your child’s height and mark it here _______. Compare it to January and June.</td>
<td><strong>READING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Read a fiction and nonfiction book about winter. Your library has many to choose from!</td>
<td><strong>WRITING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Draw a circle, square, triangle, and rectangle, and have your child color them in. Talk about shapes and point them out today.</td>
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<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PLAYING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Trace a variety of different objects on a piece of paper. Match the objects to their shapes.</td>
<td><strong>TALKING</strong>&lt;br&gt;At mealtimes, talk about the food you are preparing, what tools you are using, how you are making it, and how it will taste.</td>
<td><strong>SINGING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Recite “Three Little Kittens.” (Words are on the back.)</td>
<td><strong>COUNTING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Name three things that are white like snow.</td>
<td><strong>WRITING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Have each family member write one thing they liked about this week. Have your child decorate the paper.</td>
<td><strong>PLAYING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Use play dough or cloud dough to make a snowman.</td>
<td><strong>TALKING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Talk about favorite things that happened in 2020.</td>
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<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SINGING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sing &quot;Cold and Snowy Morning.&quot; (Words are on the back.)</td>
<td><strong>COUNTING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Make a high tower with blocks. How many blocks did you use?</td>
<td><strong>READING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Be a reading role model. Let your child see you reading a book, magazine, or newspaper.</td>
<td><strong>WRITING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Pick one color and only use that to cover a whole page with scribbles and pictures.</td>
<td><strong>PLAYING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Go for a short walk after dark. What do you see? What does it feel like outside?</td>
<td><strong>TALKING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Talk about the seasons: Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall.</td>
<td><strong>SINGING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sing nonsense words to a familiar tune. Sha la la. Doo bee doo bee do bee do wop bop, etc.</td>
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<td><strong>COUNTING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Name three things that are white like snow.</td>
<td><strong>READING</strong>&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
<td><strong>WRITING</strong>&lt;br&gt;With your child, write a list of things you plan to do in 2022.</td>
<td><strong>WRITING</strong>&lt;br&gt;With your child, write a list of things you plan to do in 2022.</td>
<td><strong>PLAYING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Go for a short walk after dark. What do you see? What does it feel like outside?</td>
<td><strong>TALKING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Talk about favorite things that happened in 2020.</td>
<td><strong>SINGING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sing nonsense words to a familiar tune. Sha la la. Doo bee doo bee do bee do wop bop, etc.</td>
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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.

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

This is the way we build a snowman
Build a snowman
This is the way we build a snowman
On a cold and snowy morning

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**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*