activities to share with your child.

| sunday | monday | tuesday | wednesday | thursoay | friday | saturday |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PublicLibrary A Division of the American Library Association WWW.PLA.ORG |  |  |  | 1 WRITING <br> Plan a picnic. Write a list of things you will need to bring. Check off the list as you locate the items. | 2 PLAYING <br> 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 <br> Talk about today's weather. What should you wear? |
| 4 SINGING <br> Sing a song with movement, like "BINGO." (Words are on the back. | 5 COUNTING <br> Have your child help cook with a recipe. <br> "We will need six eggs. One cup of flour," etc. | 6 READING <br> 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 <br> Write a message and tuck it in your child's shoe. Read it together when your child finds it. | 8 PLAYING <br> Play "Follow the Leader" outside. Do three things (reach up high, touch your toes, take a big step) and ask your child to do the same things. | 9 TALKING <br> Use a fruit or vegetable your child hasn't seen before. Talk about how it looks, feels, smells, tastes. | 10 SINGING <br> Play music with a fast tempo as you pick up and put away toys. |
| 11 COUNTING <br> Compare amounts. <br> "You have more pieces of apple than I do." | 12 READING <br> Vary your voice as you read. Use different expressions to help your child learn about feelings. | 13 WRITING <br> Write a message outside with chalk. | 14 PLAYING <br> Play the letter day game. Look for things that begin with the first letter of your child's name. | 15 TALKING <br> Take a walk outside. Talk about all you see. Point out and name things. | 16 SINGING <br> Sing or recite "Mary Had a Little Lamb." (Words are on the back. | 17 COUNTING <br> Use a piece of string to measure things. What is longer? What is shorter? |
| 18 READING <br> After reading a book talk about your favorite part. | 19 WRITING <br> Help your child draw a picture of a summer activity. Have your child "sign" the picture. | 20 PLAYING <br> Use water to "paint" on the sidewalk. Watch it evaporate. | 21 TALKING <br> At bedtime talk about where animals sleep at night. | 22 SINGING <br> Make a shaker by putting dried pasta or beans in an empty container. Shake it while you march and sing. | 23 COUNTING <br> Count how many birds you see today. $183$ | 24 READING <br> Print is everywhere. Point out words wherever you go today. |
| 25 WRITING <br> 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 <br> Play 'Riddle Me." <br> II'm smaller than your hand, I'm purple, and I'm in the kitchen. What am I? Yes! A grape." | 27 TALKING <br> Talk about things you do in the morning, things you do in the afternoon, and things you do at night. | 28 SINGING <br> Play 'Echo Me." Clap, stomp, or beat a drum, and have your child repeat the noise. | 29 COUNTING <br> Create a grocery list with your child. Look at what you have and what you need to purchase. | 30 READING <br> Use your finger to follow along with the words | 31 PLAYING <br> Play "I Spy" outside. <br> "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-0,
B-I-N-G-0
B-I-N-G-0
and Bingo was his name-oh.
There was a farmer who had a dog and Bingo was his name-oh.
(clap)-I-N-G-0,
(clap)-I-N-G-0
(clap)-I-N-G-0
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.


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.

## SEPTEMBER 2021 <br> Daily literacy-building <br> activities to share with your child.

ullli CASS DISTRICT

| 5 COUNTING |
| :--- |
| Lace Cheerios onto a piece |
| of yarn and then count |
| them. |
| 12 READING |

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

19 WRITING
Use cooked pieces of spaghetti to make shapes and letters.

## PLAYING

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

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.

## 3 WRITING

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

## 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

## TALKING

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

## 7 WRITING

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

| 14 |
| :--- |
| Tap |
| pape |
| out |
| and |
| 21 |

## 4 PLAYING

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

21 TALKING
Take turns telling each other simple stories.

## SINGING

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


## 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 <br> READERS AGES 3+

Now
by Antoinette Portis



## 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


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

## 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 <br> Daily literacy-building

ulllicASS DISTRICT

| 5 COUNTINC |
| :--- |
| Weigh your child and write <br> it here <br> it o J anuary and June. |
| 12 READING |

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

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

26 PLAYING
Go for a short walk after dark. What do you see? What does it feel like outside?
19 WRITTG
Have each family member
write one thing they liked
about this week. Have your
child decorate the paper.

SUNDAY


READING Read books about different holidays and how people celebrate them.

## 13 WRITING

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

| 7 WRITING | 8 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Wrap and unwrap blocks <br> with tin foil. This helps <br> strengthen writing musles <br> and manual dexterity. | P |

20 PLAYING

Use play dough or cloud dough to make a snowman.

TALKING
Talk about favorite things that happened in 2020.

| WEDNESDAY THURSDAY |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| 1 | 2 |



SATURDAY

## SINGING

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

## COUNTING

Measure your child's height and mark it here
enuary and June.

## 18 READING

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

## 25 WRITING

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

## 8 SINGING

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

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

## 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.

| 9 TALKING | 10 SINGING |
| :--- | :--- |
| Talk about your feelings, <br> What made you happy | Sing "The Frost Song." <br> (Words are on the back.$\rightarrow$ ) |


| 16 SINGING | 17 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Recite "Three Little Kittens." <br> (Words are on the back. | Mak |

COUNTING

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

Sing "Cold and Snowy Morning." (Words are on the back. $\rightarrow$ )

## 9 COUNTING

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

## 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 This is the way we shovel the mittens
Put on our mittens
Put on our mittens
This is the way we put on our mittens
On a cold and snowy morning
This the way we put on our coats
Put on our coats
Put on our coats
This is the way we put on our coats
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
snow
Shovel the snow
Shovel the snow
This the way we shovel the snow
On a cold and snowy morning
This is the way we build a snowman
Build a snowman
Build a snowman
This is the way we build a snowman
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


