

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



MONDAY

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!

TUESDAY

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 Ba La La La

by Sandra Boynton

FOR READERS AGES 3+

Mixed—A Colorful Story

by Arree Chung

Pinky Got Out!

By Michael Portis



MARCH 2021

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. ➡)

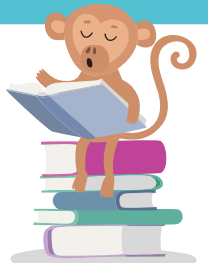
29 COUNTING

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



MAY 2021

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



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

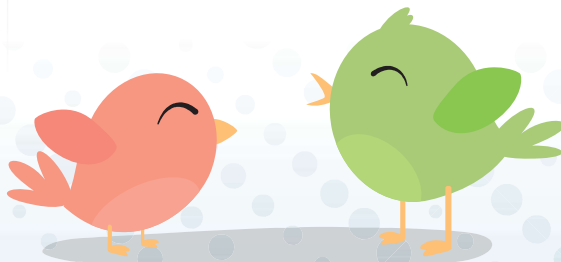
The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah.
The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah.
The ants go marching one by one,
The little one stops to eat a plum.
And they all go marching down,
To the ground, to get out, of the rain.
BOOM BOOM BOOM

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

