Early Literacy At Home

Valentine's Fun!

February 2021

Dear Families,

Who says you can't celebrate love the whole month of February! In this month's kit we have a fun recipe for Cupid Chow to snack on with the whole family, a fun Valentine's song, a heart sorting activity to help practice colors, and an uppercase and lowercase letter matching game to help reinforce children's letter knowledge!

Remember to follow along with the Early Literacy Calendars for daily activities you can complete with your child to develop literacy and numeracy skills that will help them be successful in Kindergarten! We hope you have as much fun with this activity kit as we did making them. Our wish is that this provides a rewarding experience to spend time with your child, as well as prepare them for academic success!

Around the library, we've got plenty of love to share starting March 12th- with a life size board game around town! Thanks to a generous donation from the Middlesex Community Foundation and the Peach Pit Foundation, the Library is transforming East Hampton into a life-size version of Candy Land! A game board will guide you around town to visit Candy Land themed stops, like the Peppermint Forest (Airline Trail) for a story walk, and Lollipop Woods (Seamster Park) for a photo opportunity. Families who complete the game and return it to the Library will have a chance to win prizes!

Learn more about Life Sized Candy Land on our website at easthamptonpubliclibrary.org/candyland

In all, we hope you have a wonderful February full of love and family time! We thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
April & Nicole
Children's Department



www.EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org

Early Literacy At Home

February: Valentine's

Cooking: Cupid Chow

You will need adult hands for this yummy recipe!

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- ¹/₄ cup butter
- 1 cup milk chocolate chips
- 1 tsp vanilla

Regioe:

- Combine peanut butter, butter, and chocolate chips in a microwavable
- Microwave for 1 minute, then stir until melted and creamy.
- Add vanilla and stir.
- In a large bowl with a cover, pour chocolate mixture over cereal. Cover and shake until cereal is evenly coated.
- Sprinkle powdered sugar over cereal. Cover and shake until evenly coated.
- Add M&Ms and sprinkles of your choice.

- 9 cups Chex cerea
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 cup M&Ms Sprinkles of your choice





Be My Valentine

(to the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb)

> You're a special Friend of mine Friend of mine Friend of mine

You're a special Friend of mine Be my valentine!



Literacy Tip:

Look at a calendar together.

Count the number of days until Valentine's Day.

Draw a heart around February 14!



www.EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org

FEBRUARY 2021

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.





SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



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! PLAYING

Play the yes-no game.

"Is the sky blue?" "Is it morning?" "Is our dog's name Spot? 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? 4 SINGING

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

5 COUNTING

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

22 SINGING

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 16 SINGING

Talk about your family's Sing "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" together. (Words are on the your child excited to do or see?

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 checkout clerk.

21 TALKING

Introduce a new word to describe how you feel. Say "I feel joyful" rather than "I'm happy." 23 COUNTING

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

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

NG 24

24 **READING**Point out signs everywhere

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 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

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY SINGING

FRIDAY COUNTING

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

SATURDAY

READING

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

WRITING

Pick a letter of the alphabet and practice tracing it.



8 PLAYING

around the letter.

Play "I Spy" with rhyming

something that rhymes with fly. What is it? Yes, the sky!"

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? **TALKING**

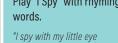
Talk about words that begin with "m," like March, Mom, Milk



Sing about what you are doing.

This is how we brush our teeth. this is how we eat breakfast, etc. Have your child help

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



9 TALKING

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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 quessing game.

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

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

Have a music parade. Play

pretend instruments while

vou march

around the

house.

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.

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] F-I-F-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 F-I-F-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

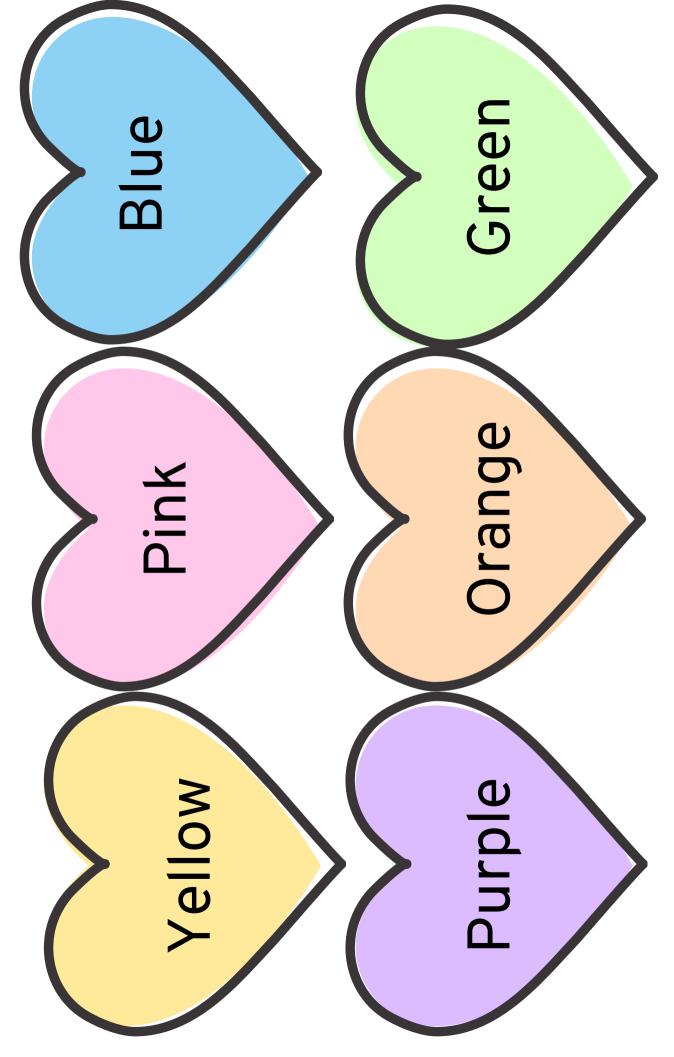
Hooray for Birds

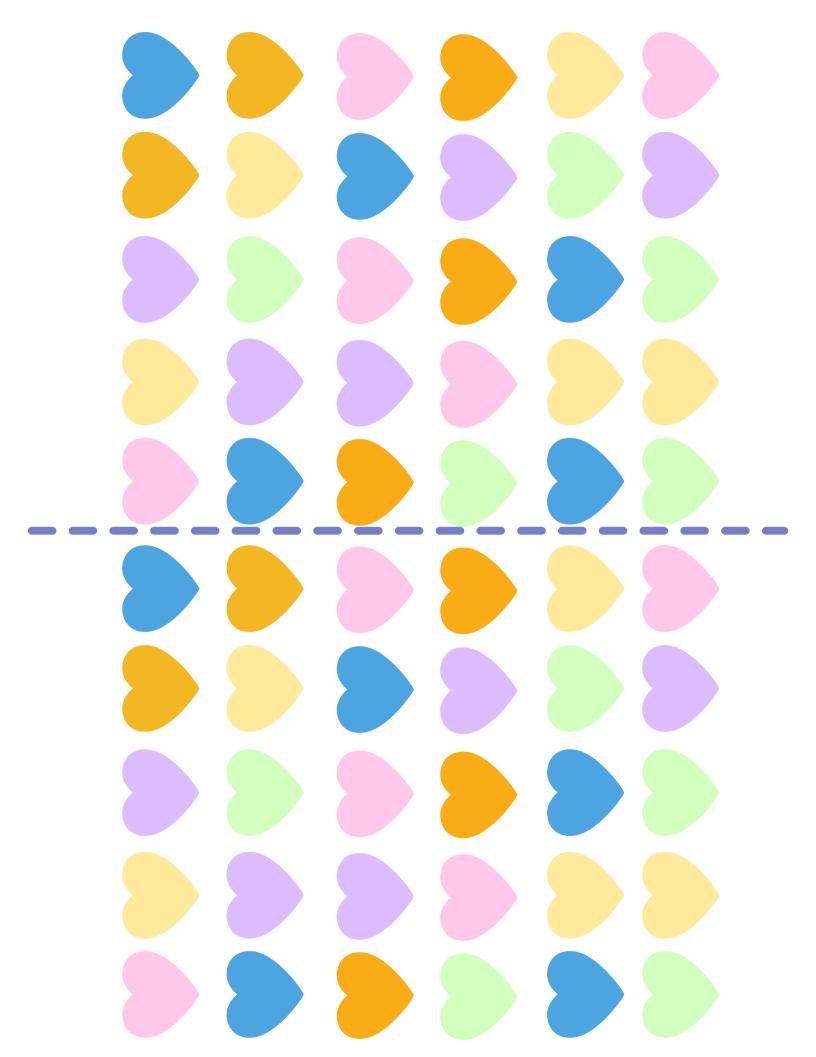
by Lucy Cousins



Heart-Sorting

Sort your hearts by color on this sorting mat!





Literacy Tip:

Have your child cut out
the half hearts for the
matching game!
Cutting is a great way
to increase hand
stability in preparation
for writing!

Literacy Tip:

Have your child cut out
the half hearts for the
matching game!
Cutting is a great way
to increase hand
stability in preparation
for writing!

Literacy Tip:

Have your child cut out
the half hearts for the
matching game!
Cutting is a great way
to increase hand
stability in preparation
for writing!

Literacy Tip:

Have your child cut out
the half hearts for the
matching game!
Cutting is a great way
to increase hand
stability in preparation
for writing!

Letter Matching!

Cut and Paste to Match the Uppercase and Lowercase Letters

