

JANUARY 2026

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

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GROSSE
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SUNDAY

MONDAY


TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

				1 WRITING Draw the numbers 2026 and color them with your child. Talk about the upcoming year. 	2 PLAYING Play "Riddle Me." Take turns offering riddles. <i>I'm white and fluffy and float in the sky. I can be gray when it rains. What am I? Yes! Clouds!</i>	3 TALKING Tell your child about winter weather and how cold it can be in some places. Is your area cold or mild? Share your favorite thing about winter.
4 SINGING Play or sing a song your child is familiar with and act it out while you are singing or while it is playing.	5 COUNTING Weigh your child and write it here: _____. Save the calendar and measure again in June.	6 READING Compare the covers of 2 books and take turns guessing what each is about.	7 WRITING With your child write down (and talk about) important dates on a 2026 calendar.	8 PLAYING Create an obstacle course and give your child directions. <i>Go around the chair, go over the book, pick up the spoon, turn around and come back.</i>	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 Play a favorite song and have a silly dance contest. 
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 in the book as you read to your child today.	13 WRITING Write these questions and help your child answer them. Then decorate the page. <i>My name is _____. I am ____ years old.</i>	14 PLAYING Play "Follow the Leader." Do things and ask your child to do the same. <i>Touch your head, Turn around, Sit down, Stand up again!</i>	15 TALKING Talk about food. <i>Which food do you each think is the most delicious? What do you want to eat for dinner?</i>	16 SINGING Sing or say "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." <i>(Words are on the back. ➡)</i>	17 COUNTING Sing or say "Five Little Snowmen." <i>(Words are on the back. ➡)</i> 
18 READING Be a reading role model. Let your child see you reading a book or magazine. 	19 WRITING Write these questions and help your child answer them. Then decorate the page. <i>My favorite color is _____. My favorite animal is _____.</i>	20 PLAYING Go on a scavenger hunt. <i>Look for things that begin with T. Toys, trees, toes.</i> 	21 TALKING Describe a favorite snack using look, smell, feel, sound, and taste words. 	22 SINGING Make up silly songs about everyday activities. <i>This is the way we brush our teeth, brush our teeth, brush our teeth, to make them very clean!</i>	23 COUNTING Count snacks. <i>How many crackers are there?</i>	24 READING Read a book about winter.
25 WRITING Take turns using your finger to draw shapes in the air and guessing what the shape is. <i>Circle, square, triangle, heart, diamond, etc.</i>	26 PLAYING Play "I Spy." Give the first letter of an object as a clue. <i>I spy with my little eye something that begins with... D. Yes, dish!</i>	27 TALKING Give your child choices. <i>Would you rather wear your white shirt or your purple shirt? Would you rather play with the ball or the blocks?</i>	28 SINGING Sing or say "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush." <i>(Words are on the back. ➡)</i>	29 COUNTING Measure your feet day! Line up all the family's shoes and boots. Whose are the biggest? The smallest?	30 READING Choose a letter of the day. Point out the letter wherever you see it today.	31 WRITING Draw large letters on a sheet of paper. Give your child some clay and have them roll it out to trace the 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 literacy skills with simple and fun activities like those in this calendar.

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



HERE WE GO ROUND THE MULBERRY BUSH (Singing & movement)

Sing the chorus:

Here we go round the mulberry bush,
the mulberry bush, the mulberry bush;
Here we go round the mulberry bush,
On a cold and frosty morning.

Action verses:

Pick an action and sing "This is the way we [action]..." while doing the motion.

Example actions: wash our hands,
brush our teeth, button our coats, put
on boots, tie our scarves, shovel snow.

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

Bear Can't Sleep

by Karma Wilson

Hello Day

by Charlie Mylie

FOR READERS AGES 3+

Ten Ways To Hear Snow

by Cathy Camper

Invisible Things

by Andy J. Pizza



FEBRUARY 2026

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 WRITING Place writing materials like sticky notes, whiteboards, clipboards, stencils, markers, and different types of paper throughout the house.	2 PLAYING Play the yes-no game! <i>Is the sky purple? Is the cat pink? Is the door closed?</i> 	3 TALKING Ask your child questions that have more than a yes or no answer. <i>What is something fun we did today and what can we do tomorrow?</i>	4 SINGING Make up songs that involve specific actions, like jumping, spinning, or waving. Sing instructions to guide the movements.	5 COUNTING Clap and count to 10, then clap and count back to 1.	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 the drawing.
8 PLAYING Go on a scavenger hunt. Look for things that are red like stop signs, blankets, shirts, socks, and Valentine's Day decorations.	9 TALKING Sit on the floor and imagine you are going to the moon in a rocket ship. What do you see? <i>There goes a house, there go the clouds, there's the moon!</i>	10 SINGING Say or sing "Zoom Zoom Zoom" together. <i>(Words are on the back. ➡)</i>	11 COUNTING Count your steps today. From the bedroom to the kitchen. From the front door to the corner and then from there all the way back home.	12 READING Pick a letter of the day. Look for it everywhere today: on license plates, at the grocery store, and in books you are reading together.	13 WRITING Write a thank-you note with your child. They can draw on the note or sign their name.	14 PLAYING Happy Valentine's Day! Play musical hearts. Place numbered paper hearts on the floor. Call out numbers for your child to run to.
15 TALKING Talk about your family's plans for today. What is your child excited to do or see? 	16 SINGING Sing or Say "The More We Get Together." <i>(Words are on the back. ➡)</i> 	17 COUNTING Recite the rhyme, "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe." <i>(Words are on the back. ➡)</i> 	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 tray of flour, salt, or baking soda. 	20 PLAYING Make a tent out of blankets and pretend to be camping in the forest. Draw maps and use them to take hikes around your house.	21 TALKING Introduce a new word to describe how you feel. Say "I am delighted" rather than "I am happy."
22 SINGING Sing a favorite song together. Change the words to make it silly or to incorporate your child's name.	23 COUNTING Play store. Set up a little store with items in your house and take turns being the shopper and the checkout clerk.	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, flavors of ice cream, 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 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 conversations 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.

ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM

Zoom Zoom Zoom,
We're going to the moon,
(point to the sky)

Zoom Zoom Zoom,
We're leaving very soon,
If you want to take a trip,
Climb aboard my rocket ship,

Zoom Zoom Zoom,
We're going to the moon,
(point to the sky)

Zoom Zoom Zoom,
We're leaving very soon.

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 Lift off!
(children can jump up or lift baby up)

ALPHABET SONG

A-B-C-D-E-F-G
H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O-P
Q-R-S ... T-U-V
W - X ... Y and Z
Now I know my ABCs
Next time won't you sing with me?

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

Upside Down Animals

by Danielle McLean

Rainbow Bear

by Bill Martin Jr.

FOR READERS AGES 3+

You Rule!

by Rilla Alexander

Stacey's Extraordinary Words

by Stacey Abrams



MARCH 2026

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 WRITING Using masking tape, write your child's name in large letters on the floor. Trace each letter by walking on it or by pushing a toy car.	2 PLAYING Go for a walk outside, see if you can spot the following: <i>A Squirrel; A Car; A Tree; An Airplane</i>	3 TALKING Play show-and-tell to build speaking confidence. Everyone chooses something they're interested in and talks about it.	4 SINGING Sing about what you are doing. <i>This is the way we eat our food, eat our food, eat our food. This is the way we put on our shoes, etc.</i>	5 COUNTING Have your child help you prepare a recipe by helping measure and count cups and spoonfuls.	6 READING Write 'Yes' on one sticky note and 'No' on another. Ask your child questions and have them hold up the sticky note that matches their answer.	7 WRITING Make a short shopping list together.
8 PLAYING Pretend you and your child are diving in the ocean. What might you see? Describe the beautiful marine life you see.	9 TALKING Point to and name body parts. <i>Where is your mouth? Where are your ears? Where are your toes?</i> 	10 SINGING Gather some household items to use as instruments. Have a fun parade marching around the house singing and making music.	11 COUNTING Say or sing "Five Little Froggies." <i>(Words are on the back. ➡)</i> 	12 READING Show your child a selection of books. Ask which they'd like to read first, second, etc. 	13 WRITING Invite your child to help you write an email or text message to a relative. Show how you pick out the letters on the keyboard.	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 or say and act out "Here is the Beehive." <i>(Words are on the back. ➡)</i> 	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 Share what you are reading with your child. Read aloud a portion of a magazine, book, or newspaper that you are reading.	19 WRITING Write a shopping list together. Take it to the store and check off the items as they are selected. 	20 PLAYING Pretend to be birds. Flap your wings and whistle and tweet. Talk about your favorite birds. 	21 TALKING Spring is here! Talk about what to expect in Springtime like warmer weather, rain and mud, flowers and trees beginning to blossom.
22 SINGING Sing and dance "The Hokey Pokey." <i>(Words and actions are on the back. ➡)</i>	23 COUNTING Build block towers, counting the blocks while you build.	24 READING Make labels for common items in your home.	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 Have your child "interview" family members or friends with fun questions. This encourages them to ask questions and listen actively.	28 SINGING Sing the ABCs. Slow once, fast once.
29 COUNTING Collect a variety of rocks and pebbles. Write numbers on each. Help your child put them in order.	30 READING Take turns telling stories.	31 WRITING Draw and decorate the alphabet together.				

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!



HERE IS THE BEEHIVE

Here is the beehive. *(Make a fist)*

Where are the bees?

Hiding inside where nobody sees.

Watch them come creeping out of the hive,

One, two, three, four, five *(Release one finger at a time*

from the fist/hive)

BUZZ-ZZZ *(Wiggle fingers)*

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

Zoom, Zoom, Baby!

by Karen Katz

Pitter Pattern

by Joyce Hesselberth

FOR READERS AGES 3+

¡Vamos!

Let's Go Eat!

by Raúl the Third

Towed By Toad

by Jashar Awan

