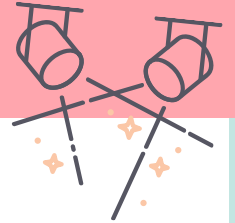


APRIL 2021 • VOL. 4

# EARLY LITERACY SPOTLIGHT



## Write Me a Story

### WRITING BEGINS WITH FINE AND GROSS MOTOR SKILLS!

Even before your child learns how to write, there is a lot they can do in early childhood to build the skills needed later to hold a pencil, form letters and words, and communicate ideas.

Writing requires quite a bit of stamina and control, so doing activities that strengthen the muscles in your child's hand and fingers will help them more easily develop fine motor skills,

Draw at every opportunity, even if it just looks like scribbles! Make drawings of shapes, patterns, and based on stories or topics of interest.

## The 5 Practices

1) Sing

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2) Talk

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3) Read

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4) Write

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5) Play





## Ways to Get Ready to Write

- Talk about what sounds different animals make.
- Write your child's name, and point out the sound of the first letter.
- Have your child draw a picture and tell you about it. Add new words to what your child shares, expanding on and clarifying meanings of words they use.
- Trace letters in the air with your finger, or trace letters in sand or shaving cream.
- Draw, paint, and play with playdough.

Check out this site for fun fingerplay ideas:

- <https://empoweredparents.co/finger-plays-for-preschool/>

## When Cows Get Up in the Morning

**When cows get up in the morning, they always say hello!**

**When cows get up in the morning, they always say hello!**

**And what do they say?**

**Moooooooo Moooooooo Moooooooo**

**And that is what they say.**

Repeat with: Ducks Quack, Chickens Cluck, etc.

## Books to Inspire Little Writers

THE FOLLOWING ARE ALL AVAILABLE AT RADNOR LIBRARY:

- **Moo, Baa, La La La!** by Sandra Boynton
- **What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?** by Steve Jenkins
- **A Splendid Friend Indeed** by Suzanne Bloom
- **Not a Box** by Antoinette Portis
- **Round is a Tortilla** by Roseanne Thong
- **Beautiful Hands** by Kathryn Otoshi
- **The Dot** by Peter Reynolds
- **Bear in a Square** by Stella Blackstone
- **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom** by Bill Martin, Jr.
- **Hug** by Jez Alborough

**IN ORDER TO LEARN TO WRITE, CHILDREN MUST HAVE CONTROL OF THEIR BODIES AND DEVELOP THEIR GROSS MOTOR SKILLS.**

**-TANJA MCILROY**



# 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.

### 11 COUNTING

Cut a piece of toast in half. Say, "Now we have two pieces the same size."

### 18 READING

Get caught reading a book. Show your child reading is important to you too.

### 25 WRITING

Create a writing box together. Include paper and crayons. Decorate the outside and leave it within easy reach of your child.

### 5 COUNTING

Find two items that are similar but different sizes. Talk about big and little.

### 12 READING

Teach letter sounds by playing "I Spy."  
"I spy with my little eye something that begins with S. Yes! A shoe!"

### 19 WRITING

Make a dot painting with cotton swabs to help develop fine motor skills.

### 26 PLAYING

Make a tent with sheets and furniture. Pretend you are camping. What do you see? What do you hear?

### 6 READING

Visit the library (in-person or online) and check outbooks about Spring.

### 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.

### 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.

### 27 TALKING

Say a favorite rhyme but leave off the last word. Have your child finish the sentence

### 7 WRITING

Help your child experiment with writing using pencils, crayons, markers, and chalk on different types of paper and cardboard.

### 14 PLAYING

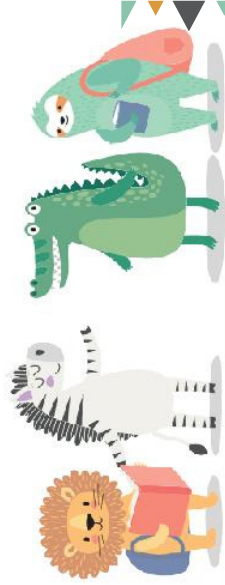
Play the letter day game. Find things all day that start with the first letter of your child's first name.

### 21 TALKING

Choose a word of the day. Write the word down together. Use the word several times during the course of the day.

### 28 SINGING

Sing "I Hear Thunder."  
(Words are on the back)



### 1 WRITING

Write your child a small note. Leave it where they will find it. Read it to them with excitement and expression.

### 8 PLAYING

Play follow the leader. One person (the leader) performs actions the others must follow. Take turns being the leader.

### 15 TALKING

Use new describing words today.  
Say "enormous" instead of "big."  
"Wonderful" instead of "great."

### 22 SINGING

Make up a song about something that is familiar or interesting to your child.

### 29 COUNTING

Sort blocks by color. Count how many there are of each color.



### 2 PLAYING

Play a questioning game. Ask your child, "Where are your toes?", "Where is your nose?", "Where are your ears?"

### 9 TALKING

Say a favorite nursery rhyme, change an important word to something silly. Hickory-Didory Dock, the mouse ran up the tree ...

### 16 SINGING

Sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" during bath time.

### 23 COUNTING

Place several objects on a table. Ask which is largest, which is heaviest, which is smallest.

### 30 READING

Ask interactive questions while reading together. Where is the dog? Where is the cat?



### 3 TALKING

Talk about Spring and how it is one of the four seasons. What will happen in Spring? What comes after Spring?

### 10 SINGING

Has it been raining a lot? Sing, "Rain, Rain, Go Away." (Words are on the back)

### 17 COUNTING

Count to 5 as you spin in a circle five times. Count 5 hops. Count five small steps. Count five big steps.

### 24 READING

Write a few letters down on different pieces of paper. Place them around the room. Help your child find them.

## 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;

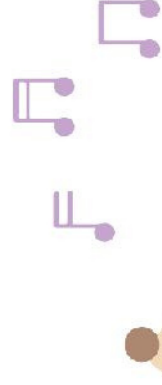
*(Wiggle fingers in falling motion in front of face)*

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

