

## Did you know...



Children with print awareness understand that print has different functions; for example, menus list food choices, a book tells a story, a sign can point to a favorite restaurant or warn of danger. Show children that print is all around them. Point it out when you are out in the community, or around the house.

Labels can help children identify where things belong. Chest of drawers can be labeled for socks, shirts, etc., with a picture of the item next to the word. You can also label tubs or boxes of toys to make cleanup easier and help your child sort and organize their belongings.



## Here's how...

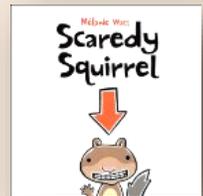


- ✦ Writing thank you notes or describing an activity are a fun way to start. These can be written in an email or stamped letter.
- ✦ Ask your child to create lists that will help them or the family. They can make lists for:
  - Going to the grocery store
  - Errands to run
  - Tasks that need to be done inside or outside the house
  - Gifts they would like to be given for special occasions
- ✦ Collect materials for your child to use as they practice writing, such as paper, envelopes, and writing tools. Create a special place for these writing materials, such as a drawer or box.

## Read



### Scaredy Squirrel, by Mélanie Watt



Scaredy Squirrel never leaves his nut tree. It's way too dangerous out there. He could face all kinds of terrible things. Day after day he watches and waits, and waits and watches, until one day his worst nightmare comes true!

Spend more time with Scaredy Squirrel:



More laugh-it-up books from Mélanie Watt:



## Choose Books



### Kinds of books that develop an awareness of print:

- Books with lots of punctuation marks
- Books with signs, lists, labels, menus, charts, instructions, etc. as part of the illustrations
- Books in which characters are using print in different ways, such as writing a letter, or making a checklist
- Books with speech or thought bubbles
- Recipe books

## Talk



Create an emergency kit for home or for outings. What would be good things include? Ask your child questions such as, “What would you need if you scraped your knee?” “What kinds of things would help pass the time while we wait for the bus?” Help your child draw and label a list, then help her gather those things and put them in a small bag or backpack.

## Write



Help your child make a daily schedule like the one in the book. Hopefully your child’s day is more exciting than Scaredy’s.

## Sing



### Squirrel Song

*Tune: "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain"*

I'll be gathering all the acorns 'til they're gone.  
I'll be gathering all the acorns 'til they're gone.  
I'll be gathering all the acorns,  
I'll be gathering all the acorns,  
I'll be gathering all the acorns 'til they're gone.  
*(Children make collecting motion with their hands)*

Additional verses:

And I'll put them all inside my little home...  
*(Children pretend to place nuts in tree house)*

And I'll eat the nuts until the winter's gone...  
*(Children pretend to eat acorns)*

Then I'll do it all again come next fall...  
*(Children make gathering motion with hands and arms again)*

<https://kidsongs.com/lyrics/she-ll-be-comin-round-the-mountain.html/>



## Play



**Arts and crafts...** Make squirrel feeders by tying sturdy string around several dried corn cobs or pine cones stuffed with peanut butter and bird seed. Hang from the branches on your trees.

### Action Rhyme

#### Gray Squirrel

*(Match actions to words)*

Gray Squirrel, Gray Squirrel  
shake your bushy tail.

Gray Squirrel, Gray Squirrel  
shake your bushy tail.

Wrinkle up your funny nose,

Put a nut between your toes.

Gray Squirrel, Gray Squirrel  
shake your bushy tail.

## At your library...



Idaho Family Reading Week is an annual statewide celebration of reading as a family activity. The theme this year is “*Laugh it up at your library.*” Libraries across the state are planning fun events that celebrate family reading.

Ask your librarian about special events and programs planned for Family Reading Week, November 13—19, 2016.