Family Reading Week: November 11–17

Family Reading Week is an annual statewide celebration of reading as a family activity. The theme this year is "Snuggle Up and Read." Libraries across the state are planning exciting events celebrating family reading this winter.

Why Read Aloud to Your Baby or Toddler?

- Your baby/toddler connects your voice with feelings of warmth and comfort.
- Reading has a calming effect on a restless baby/toddler.
- Babies and toddlers are entertained by nursery rhymes and songs in books.
- Holding your baby/toddler while reading to her creates a close, loving bond between you and your little one.
- Your baby/toddler makes a connection between reading and being held.
- Your baby/toddler will learn to listen and will grow up better ready to read.
- Your baby/toddler will begin copying your sounds and words.
- Your baby/toddler must hear English (or in your native language) in order to learn that language.

It’s never too early to begin reading with your baby or toddler!

Other books in this series:

Winter books to snuggle up and read with your baby or toddler:

- The Snowy Day, Ezra Jack Keats
- Bear Snores On, Karma Wilson
- Biscuit’s Snowy Day, Alyssa Satin Capucilli
- Let’s Play in the Snow, Sam McBratney
- Max and Ruby’s Snowy Day, Rosemary Wells
- Snowballs, Lois Ehlert
- Snowbears, Martin Waddell
- Spot’s Snowy Day, Eric Hill
- That’s Not My Snowman, Fiona Watt
More fun with Welcome Winter

Talk about it... As your child touches the different textures in the book (or any “touch and feel” book) use describing words. “Let’s touch the boy’s blue hat. Feel how soft it is!” Use words such as hard, rough, bumpy, and shiny, and be sure to name colors when possible. Young children who know a lot of describing words have an easier time learning to read when they start school.

Out and about... It’s harder to get outside when the weather is cold and snowy, but young children’s brains and bodies need fresh air every day in order to grow. Bundle your toddler in warm clothes and take a walk around the neighborhood, play with a ball in the yard, or let her scoop snow into a sand pail. Talk about what you see and what she is doing.

In the kitchen... Warm snowman snack: Use refrigerated biscuit dough. Give your child three of the biscuits to place next to each other in a straight line on a piece of foil (to look like a snowman). Let her use pretzel sticks and raisins (or Cheerios) for the snowman’s arms, eyes, nose, mouth, and buttons. Place foil on a cookie sheet and bake as directed on the biscuit can. Serve with butter or honey and share the treat. Enjoy on a cold winter day!

Songs for Toddlers

Dancing Snowflakes
(to the tune of “Frère Jacques”)
(Tell your child to dance like a snowflake. Repeat the song as many times as you like.)
Snowflakes dancing, snowflakes dancing,
In the air, everywhere,
Gently twirling snowflakes, lovely little snowflakes,
Twirling here, whirling there.

I’m a Little Snowman
(to the tune of “I’m a Little Teapot”)
I’m a Little Snowman
Short and fat
Here is my broomstick
(Pretend to hold a broomstick)
Here is my hat
(Pretend to put a hat on your head)
When the sun comes out
I melt away
(Raise arms in a circle overhead)
Down, down, down, down,
I’m a puddle.
(Slowly slump to the floor)

What your library can do for you...
Ask your librarian about special events and programs planned for Family Reading Week!

Rhyme for Baby
(lay baby on your lap)
Snowflakes falling on the ground,
(Wiggle fingers from high to low)
Snowflakes falling all around,
(Wiggle fingers around baby’s body)
Snowflakes falling, gently, see,
(Wiggle fingers where baby can see)
Snowflakes fall on you and me!
(Wiggle fingers and rest on baby’s tummy)

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