

Did you know...



Summertime is a great time to read, talk, sing, and play with your baby or toddler so they can continue building early literacy skills.

Take time to go to the park and bring books with you for an outdoor storytime. Make reading bedtime stories a family tradition and sing songs as you take walks around your neighborhood. Play games with your child so they learn to follow directions and take turns. Talk to your child during routines like grocery shopping and bath time.

Visit your local public library to borrow books and games, or use the library's online services. Be sure to sign up for the library's summer reading program, where you can earn prizes for reading to your child or doing fun activities. Library programs are free!

Here's how...

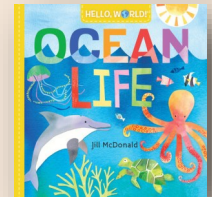


- ❖ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ❖ Keep books in your diaper bag and in the car. When you have wait time in an office or while you are driving, books can keep your child interested and engaged.
- ❖ Get your child (or family) a library card at your local public library. It's free for most people. Some libraries offer free summer cards for those who live outside the local taxing district.
- ❖ Let your child pick out books they enjoy, even if you have to read the same books over and over. When children choose books they enjoy, they learn to love reading, and they become better readers when they start school.

Read



Ocean Life (Hello World! series), by Jill McDonald



“An octopus has eight arms. Can you count them all?” Hello, World! is a series designed to introduce information and concepts to babies and toddlers. Told in clear and easy words and featuring bright, cheerful illustrations, this series is a perfect way to bring science and nature into the busy world of a toddler, where learning never stops.

Choosing Books



This year many libraries will design summer programs around an ocean theme.

More books about the ocean:

Deep in the Ocean, by Lucie Brunellière

Hooray for Fish! by Lucy Cousins

Bea by the Sea, by Jo Byatt

Guess Who: Ocean Friends, by Jodie Shepherd

I Spy Ocean Animals, by Alek Malkovich

Ocean Creatures (Look and Learn series), by National Geographic Kids

Ocean Motions, by Caspar Babypants

Touch and Explore: The Ocean, by Nathalie Choux

Talk



When you talk, read, and sing with your child, even before they can use words, you're building their brain and helping them to be ready for school and life. It's not always easy to talk with a baby or toddler who can't talk back; here is a great resource that has tips and examples for everyday talk:

Talkingisteaching.org

Ready to Write



Here's an activity that will help develop the little finger muscles in your child's hands:

Fill a dish tub or bucket with water. Gather some small objects (milk caps, small lids, small plastic toys, bits of sponge) and put them in the tub. Give your child a measuring cup or a ladle and let them scoop the items out of the water. This is a fun activity to do outside when the weather is warm!

Play



Bubble, Bubble, Pop!

Make fish shapes out of felt or paper, or just use colored pom poms, crayons, socks, etc., to represent fish.

One blue fish went swimming in the ocean,
(hold up blue fish and swim it around)
Swimming in the ocean, swimming in the ocean.
One blue fish went swimming in the ocean,
Bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble, POP! *(clap)*

Repeat with:

Two red fish; three yellow fish; four pink fish; five green fish...

Or use different ocean animals:

One blue shark; one red crab; one yellow seahorse; one pink octopus; one green turtle...



Sing



Waves in the Sea

(To the Tune of: Wheels on the Bus)

The waves on the sea go up and down,
(raise and lower arms)
Up and down, up and down,
The waves on the sea go up and down
All day long.

More verses...

The sharks in the sea go snap, snap, snap...
(clap your hands)

The fish in the sea go swish, swish, swish...
(swish back and forth)

The boats in the sea go toot, toot, toot...
(make blowing horn motion)

Hear tune at

[www.thelearninggroove.com/
wheels-on-the-bus](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/wheels-on-the-bus)



At your library...



Be sure to check your library's website and/or Facebook page for special summer activities in the library and out in the community!