

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



Global Babies / Bebes del mundo, from the Global Fund for Children



Young children love to look at baby faces, and this bilingual book celebrates children from all over the world.

The Global Fund for Children supports programs that help needy children worldwide. Here are more Global Fund for Children board books:



globalfundforchildren.org

Choosing Books



Some fun books to look for this summer:

Everywhere Babies, by Susan Meyers

Fiesta Babies, by Carmen Tafolla

Kindness Makes Us Strong, by Sophie Beer

Rin, Rin, Rin / Do, Re, Mi, by José-Luis Orozco

Say Hello! by Rachel Isadora

Te Amo, Bebé, Little One, by Lisa Wheeler and Maribel Suarez

Whoever You Are, by Mem Fox

What I Like about Me! by Allia Zobel Nolan



Talk

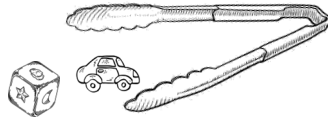


It's important for your child to see children who look like them in the books they read, as well as children who are different. As you share books with your child, talk about the children on the pages. Ask where their eyes are, their hands... let your child see that even though the children in the books may have different hair or skin color, they all have the same body parts, and someone who loves them.

Ready to Write



Lay out some small objects (plastic animals, cookie cutters, spools of thread, blocks). Give your child some kitchen tongs and show them how to pinch the tongs to pick up an object. Your child's hands are small so they will need to use their whole hand, not just their fingers. They might even need to use two hands. This squeezing motion will help develop the small muscles in the hand, which are needed to control a pencil later on.



Sing



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!

Hear this song at www.bussongs.com/songs/the-more-we-get-together



Play



Where Is Thumbkin?

(Start with hands behind back)

Where is Thumbkin?

Where is Thumbkin?

Here I am,

(Bring right hand to front, with thumb up)

Here I am.

(Bring left hand to front, with thumb up)

How are you this morning?

Very well, I thank you.

(Wiggle thumbs as if they're talking to each other)

Run away, *(Hide right hand behind back)*

Run away. *(Hide left hand behind back)*

Repeat with:

Pointer (index finger)

Tall-one (middle finger)

Ring-man (ring finger)

Baby (pinkie finger)

Everyone (all fingers)

<https://tinyurl.com/wccls-thumbkin>

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!