

Did you know...



Summer time is a great time to keep reading, talking, singing, writing, and playing 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 taking a bath.

Visit your local public library to borrow some books, music CDs, and more. Most libraries offer storytimes and provide a place to meet other parents and let your child play. Be sure to sign up for summer reading, where prizes can be earned for reading to your child. This year's theme is "A Universe of Stories."

Library programs are free!



Here's how...

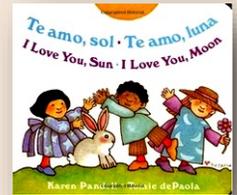


- ❖ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ❖ Keep books in your purse, diaper bag, and in the car. When you have wait time in an office or while you are driving, books can keep your child interested and engaged.
- ❖ Get your child (or family) a library card 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



"Te amo sol, Te amo luna" / "I Love You Sun, I Love You Moon" by Karen Pandell, illustrated by Tomie dePaola



Perfect for the youngest children, this book is full of wonder and appreciation for the little things in life, like the wind, the trees, the birds, and the stars. The gentle message and Tomie dePaola's adorable illustrations of children interacting with their world make this a welcome addition to every toddler's library.

Tomie dePaola is one of the most well-known illustrators of children's books. Look for more of his books at your library!



Choosing Books



A "Universe of Stories" to explore this summer:

"Goodnight Moon" by Margaret Wise Brown

"Pajama Time!" by Sandra Boynton

"I Love You to the Moon and Back" by Amelia Hepworth

"Lullaby Moon" by Rosie Reeve

"Space Walk" by Salina Yoon

"Curious George and the Rocket" by Margaret Rey

"Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star/ Estrellita, ¿donde estas?" by Little Scholastic

Talk



Let your child know every day that he is special and that you love him. Notice things he does well, or point out things you appreciate:

“I love how you give gentle touches to Kitty.”
“That sock was really hard for you to put on your foot, but you didn’t give up!” “You are really good at finding pretty rocks when we walk to the park.” “I love you all the way to the moon!”

Ready to Write



Clothespins are a handy tool to help develop your toddler’s finger muscles. Here are two simple activities you can do at home:

Let your child pick up small objects with a clothespin, such as cotton balls, bottle caps, rubber bands, etc.

Make a paintbrush by clipping a small piece of sponge in a clothespin. Use with inexpensive watercolors, or dye a small container of water with food coloring. Let your child dab color on paper.

Play



Big Yellow Moon

Big yellow moon shines so bright,
(hold arms above head in a circle)

Glides across the starry night.
(move arms from left to right)

Looks down at me,
(use hands to shade eyes)

Asleep in bed,
(pretend to sleep)

And whispers, “Good night, sleepyhead.”

Big yellow moon your turn is done,
(move arms down in front of body)

Here comes Mr. Morning Sun!
(move arms above head in a circle again)

Sing



Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.

Hear song at
<https://tinyurl.com/joco-twinkle>

Video from the Johnson
County Library



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!