

Did you know...



During the summer, schedules change and routines are sometimes harder to keep. It is important to keep reading, talking, singing, writing, and playing with your child so their early literacy skills continue to grow. Studies show that children who do not keep their reading routines over the summer can *lose* many of the skills they developed during the school year. Look for programs at your library or in the community that will be fun and provide opportunities for your kindergartner to learn.

Be sure to sign up for summer reading at the library, where prizes can be earned for reading with your child. Most libraries offer storytimes, and you can meet other parents and let your child play. This year's theme is "Imagine Your Story." Library programs are free!

Here's how...

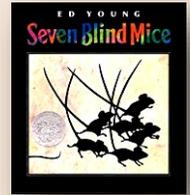


- ✪ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ✪ Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- ✪ Get your child (or family) a library card at your local public library. It's free for most people. Some libraries offer free summer cards for those who live out of the taxing district.
- ✪ Let your child pick out books they enjoy, even if you have to read the same books over and over.
- ✪ Check out audiobooks from the library. Children learn a lot about reading by listening, especially about how words and phrasing sound (fluency).

Read



Seven Blind Mice, by Ed Young



One by one, seven blind mice explore a strange Something by the pond. And one by one, they come back with a different idea of what it is. It's only when the seventh mouse explores the whole Something that the mice see the whole truth. Based on a classic Indian folk tale, Ed Young's award-winning book is a treasure to enjoy again and again.

Other books by Ed Young:

The Weather's Bet (new in 2020)

Voices of the Heart

Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China

Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China

The Lost Horse: A Chinese Folktale

And many more!

Choose Books



Imagine your Story with some other folk and fairy tales:

Each Peach Pear Plum, by Janet Ahlberg

After the Fall (How Humpty Got Back Up Again), by Dan Santat

The Knight and the Dragon, by Tomie dePaola

King Bidgood's in the Bathtub, by Audrey and Don Wood

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs, by Jon Scieszka

The Little Red Hen, by Paul Galdone

The Three Bears, by Paul Galdone

Talk



Books such as *Seven Blind Mice* contain lots of great ways to describe something, such as “sharp as a spear,” and “stringy as a rope.” Put a “mystery” object in a pillowcase or paper bag. Let your child feel the object. Ask them not to guess what the object is, but to find three words to describe what they are feeling. Then they can guess what the mystery object is. If they’re having a hard time finding words to describe the object, give them some suggestions.

Write



Summer is a great time for your child to keep a diary or journal. Let her write about something fun she did, a favorite book, a place she visited. Let her write the sounds she hears in the words, and don’t worry about spelling things correctly, unless she asks for help. Encourage her to draw pictures as well.



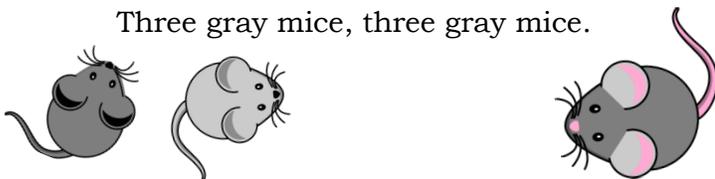
Sing



Three Gray Mice

This is version of the song, “Three Blind Mice,” but with a happier ending.

Three gray mice, three gray mice,
See how they run. See how they run.
They all were chased by the farmer's cat.
They ran and hid in an old straw hat.
Did you ever see such a sight as that?
Three gray mice, three gray mice.



Tune: <https://tinyurl.com/three-mice-tune>

Play



Five Little Elephants

You can do this as a flannel board activity, or act it out with dolls or toys. You can sing it (see link for tune) or just say the rhyme.

One little elephant went out to play,
Upon a spider’s web one day.
He had such enormous fun,
That he called for another little elephant.

Two little elephants went out to play...
Three little elephants went out to play...
Four little elephants went out to play...

Five little elephants went out to play,
Upon a spider’s web one day.
The web went creak, the web went crack,
And five little elephants came running back!

www.bussongs.com/songs/elephant-went-out-to-play



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!