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!

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
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.

**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

**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

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.

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