

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 library programs, where prizes can be earned for reading and learning with your child. Most Idaho public libraries offer a summer program, and library programs are free!

Here's how...

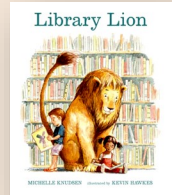


- ❖ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ❖ Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- ❖ Get your child (or family) a library card at your local public library. It's free for most 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



Library Lion, by Michelle Knudson



When a lion wanders into the library one day, no one is sure what to do. There aren't any rules about lions in the library! And lions can be very useful in the library, from dusting with its tail, helping small children reach books, and making a comfy backrest for storytime. Lions are welcome in the library... as long as they don't ROAR! Uh-oh.

Choose Books



This year many libraries will design their summer programs around a theme with animals and stories.



Here are some fun Tails and Tales books:

Library Mouse, by Daniel Kirk

Tiger in My Soup, by Kashmira Sheth

Bats at the Library, by Brian Lies

Dewey: There's a Cat in the Library! by Vicki Myron

The Library Dragon, by Carmen Agra Deedy

I Took My Frog to the Library, by Eric A. Kimmell

Clemens' Kingdom, by Chris L. Demarest

Winston the Book Wolf, by Marni McGee

When the Library Lights Go Out, by Megan McDonald

Madeline Finn and the Library Dog, by Lisa Papp



Cover to Cover: Before you open a book and start reading, talk about the cover with your child. Point to the title and read it aloud. Point to the author. If you've read other books by that author, remind your child what they were. Ask your child what the story might be about, and what clues in the title or picture he or she used to make those predictions. You're not trying to see if your child is "right"; you're just trying to build excitement for the story and showing that the cover tells us quite a lot about the book.

Write



Help your child write a silly tale about an animal with the title "The Day My ____ Went to the ____." Ask them to choose an animal and where that animal went, the sillier the better! Then ask them to start with a drawing, and ask questions as they draw, such as "Why did your (goat) want to go to the (car show)?" Let your child tell the story. Write it down, and let them copy it in their own writing if they want.

Sing



If You're Happy and You Know It, Share a Book

If you're happy and you know it, share a book.
If you're happy and you know it share a book.
If you're happy and you know
and you really want to show it,
If you're happy and you know it share a book!

More verses:

- sing a song
- play a game
- write a story
- tell a tale
- go to storytime



Counting Game

One little lion went out one day
on the grassy plains, to run and play.
He thought it was so much fun
he called some friends,
who came on the run.

Two little giraffes went out one day
on the grassy plains, to run and play.
They thought it was so much fun
they called more friends,
who came on the run.

Continue with this counting rhyme, adding more and more safari animals, such as 3 zebras, 4 rhinos, and 5 elephants.

Math connections: Use toy animals felt cutouts or draw pictures. Ask your child simple math questions: How many lions and zebras are there? How many more giraffes are there than lions?

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!