



## 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 ...

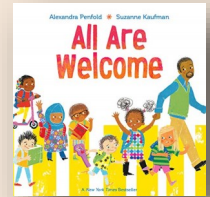


- ✦ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ✦ Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- ✦ Get your child (or family) a library card at your local public library. It's free for most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

## Read



### **All Are Welcome, by Alexandra Penfold**



Discover a place where all children are safe, loved, valued, and welcomed with open arms. Your child will want to study the beautiful illustrations over and over again as you read the book together.

Also by the author:  
*Big Feelings*  
*All Are Neighbors*

## Choosing Books



This year many libraries will design their summer programs with “kindness,” “family,” “friendship,” and “community” in mind.

### **Here are some fun books to look for:**

*Amy Wu and the Warm Welcome*, by Kat Zhang

*Counting Kindness: Ten Ways to Welcome Refugee Children*, by Hollis Kurman

*Drawn Together*, by Minh Lê

*Festival of Colors*, by Surishtha Sehgal

*Fry Bread*, by Kevin Noble Maillard

*K Is for Kindness*, by Rina Horiuchi

*Maybe Something Beautiful*, by F. Isabel Campoy

*Milo Imagines the World*, by Matt de la Peña

*The Most Beautiful Thing*, by Kao Kalia Yang



## 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. Look for books that show all kinds of children in the pictures.



## Write



Give your child different types of writing tools to practice with because each requires different muscles and skills. Encourage them to write in ways that connect to their lives – lists of chores, letters and greeting cards, stories about fun things they did that day, etc.

## Play



### Will You Be a Friend of Mine?

*(To the tune of London Bridge Is Falling Down)*

Choose two people to face each other with hands clasped together to make a bridge. The others walk under the bridge as you sing the first verse and continue circling around:

Will you be a friend of mine?  
Friend of mine, friend of mine?  
Will you be a friend of mine,  
And play with me today?

On the second verse, bring hands down around person who is currently under the “bridge,” and sing:

Yes, I'll be a friend of yours,  
Friend of yours, friend of yours.  
Yes, I'll be a friend of yours,  
And play with you today!

The person under the bridge then switches places with one of the bridge holders, and the game continues, repeating both verses.

See the London Bridge version of this game at <https://tinyurl.com/London-Bridge-game>

## Sing



### Make New Friends

Make new friends, but keep the old.  
One is silver and the other is gold.

A circle is round; it has no end.  
That's how long I want to be your friend.

A fire burns bright; it warms the heart.  
We've been friends from the very start.

You help me, and I'll help you,  
And together we will see it through.

Across the land; across the sea.  
Friends forever we will always be.

Listen to the song at:

[www.songsforteaching.com/  
folk/makenewfriends.php](http://www.songsforteaching.com/folk/makenewfriends.php)



### 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!